

GOAL! WEEKLY

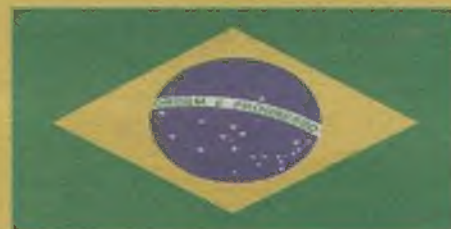
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DOWN BUT NOT OUT!



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**SOUVENIR
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Page 12



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This week's line-up

Soccer Hotline	3
Vodafone Cup review	4-8
State League football	9-10
Boo's World	11
World Cup	12-17
Katsa's Korner	19
Juniors	22-24
Football Focus	27-28

ROOS FIGHT ON 'TILL THE END

Australia 0 - 2 Brazil

MUNICH- Reigning World Champions Brazil are through to the round of sixteen after a 2-0 win over a motivated Australia. Unlucky not to have equalized after Adriano's goal Australia created chances but it was just not the Socceroos' day.

In the opening phase, Brazil were first to go for the attack but the Australians resisted and slowly started to push forward as well.

After ten minutes, a Vince Grella foul on Ronaldo had a free kick as result, just outside the Australian penalty area, but Roberto Carlos' strike lacked precision.

Although Brazil were the dominant side, with Ronaldo showing improvement after his disappointing first game, they had difficulties with Australia's motivated defense.

Around the half hour mark, Brazil had both Cafu and Ronaldo yellow-carded, Cafu fouled Tim Cahill and Ronaldo kicked the ball while referee Merk's whistle had already gone.

Australia's Tony Popovic suffered a calf injury in the 40th minute and needed to be replaced with Marco Bresciano.

A minute later, Ronaldo showed his presence again with a distance strike that went two meters wide of the right post.

Just before half time, the Australians almost opened the score as substitute Bresciano's strike missed the goal by a meter.

1-0 Adriano 49th minute
Four minutes into the second half, Brazil did open the score. Ronaldo's pass on the edge of the area found Adriano, who beat goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer with a low shot into the right corner.



Five minutes later, the Australians almost levelled the score as Bresciano stormed down the pitch with only Dida to beat, but Ze Roberto's tackle was successful and ended the attack.

And after another minute, the Socceroos had another chance as a rare mistake by Dida allowed Kewell to score into an empty goal, but his strike went over the crossbar.

The Australians continued to attack, and Kewell broke through the defense

in the 68th minute but knew that he did not have the pace to stay ahead of the defenders and his distance strike went over the crossbar.

In the 71st minute, Kaká came down the right and launched a diagonal shot on the Australian goal, but Schwarzer stood in the right place and saved.

Brazil coach Parreira made two changes in the 72nd minute, bringing on Robinho and Gilberto Silva for Ronald and Emerson.

With ten minutes left, just when Brazil started taking the initiative again, Australia's Bresciano almost scored with a spectacular volley, but Dida only just managed to tip the ball around the post.

Two minutes later, Brazil came close again as Kaká hit the crossbar from a Ronaldinho corner.

And in the 84th minute, a Bresciano free kick was slightly deflected by a Mark Viduka header, and the ball missed Dida's goal by a few centimeters.

The 'Aussies' continued to push for that equaliser, and a lob by Mark Viduka did beat Dida but went just too high.

2-0 Fred 89th minute But the decider came not much later, when Robinho's shot hit the right post but substitute Fred could easily score from the rebound.

Australian coach Guus Hiddink was proud of the Aussie boys when he said, "I think that we can be very proud of ourselves. We missed two or three chances, and we didn't get the result. But we're entitled to be proud. Now we have to carry on. We're confident of doing well against Croatia, because we played well against Holland, Japan and now the world champions.

We've got a good structure in place. It will be a difficult game, an emotional game, but we're positive. We're proud because we got near to the level of world champions, even if we didn't win. Morale is high and we're going to carry on doing the same things.

Australia will now face Croatia and will need three points to guarantee its place in the second round.

By Jonathan Ruorda

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4:45 PM
by John Gorton, ST, Melbourne (M)
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7:00 PM
by Michael, ST, Sydney (M)
The great football...
...the great football...
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9:00 PM
by Michael, ST, Sydney (M)
The great football...
...the great football...
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Tuesday 20 June



VODAFONE CUP

Review


RICHMOND EAGLES FC



After a promising opening round win against Essendon Royals, newly promoted Richmond soon found that life in the Vodafone Cup was going to be a struggle, not winning for another eleven games. Losing two games against Frankston Pines and Melbourne Knights in which numerous scoring opportunities were created, Richmond then displayed a frustrating knack for being unable to hold on to a lead, conceding late goals against Green Gully and Sunshine Georgies.

Able to host a home game for the first time in Round Six against Heidelberg United, disaster struck when after a solid opening, two sloppy goals were conceded before a dramatic floodlight failure following a power surge in the area. With the game resuming at 0-2 two weeks later, Richmond again took the game to Heidelberg early before the Bergers took charge and added a third goal to the final scoreline.

James Robinson was signed from English side Altrincham, and scored on debut to earn a 1-1 draw with then league leaders Altona Magic. He scored twice in the next game, a 2-3 loss to Fawkner-Whittlesea in which the Eagles missed a penalty, fought back from 0-2 down to equalise and then conceded a late goal on a counter-attack when pushing for a winner themselves.

After a stunning goal from Veton Korcarevski, the Eagles failed to capitalise on South Melbourne being reduced to ten men following an all-in brawl and put in their worst performance of the season in losing 2-1 at Bob Jane Stadium. The following week saw Robinson score again in a 1-1 draw at home to Kingston City in which the Eagles deserved more for their efforts.

A poor second half capitulation against top of the table Oakleigh Cannons saw a heavy 2-5 defeat. Robinson had scored the equaliser early on before Daniel Visevic gave the Eagles a lead, which they were unable to take into the break after conceding a late first half goal.

A goal from Visevic brought about the second win of the season, an entertaining affair against Preston Lions. The win was tarnished with the loss of Josip Rajher to a season-ending knee injury after only five minutes. Wasted opportunities saw Richmond fail to get full points after a first-half Robinson goal in a 1-1 draw at Bulleen Zebras.

Showing worrying inconsistency, Richmond then lost 1-2 at home to Essendon Royals. A second half goal from James Baskerville was all Richmond could find after giving away to great a lead in the first period. By the end of the weekend Dean Hennessey had been dismissed as coach with Phil Stubbins brought in to try and steer the side off the bottom of the table.

After conceding another early goal, Robinson struck his seventh of the season to

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Oakleigh Cannons	15	10	3	2	31	16	33
South Melbourne	16	9	2	5	32	18	29
Kingston City	16	8	4	4	26	18	28
Altona Magic	16	7	7	2	21	13	28
Heidelberg Utd	16	6	5	5	23	22	21
Bulleen Zebras	16	6	5	5	17	19	23
Melbourne Knights	16	5	6	5	21	25	21
Sunshine Georgies	16	5	4	7	20	22	19
Fawkner Blues	16	6	1	9	28	31	19
Preston Lions	16	4	6	6	26	31	18
Essendon Royals	16	4	5	7	16	21	17
Green Gully	15	3	6	6	18	22	15
Frankston Pines	16	4	3	9	15	26	15
Richmond Eagles	16	2	7	7	18	28	13

force a 1-1 draw at Frankston Pines. Apart from missing numerous chances to win the game, the day ended badly for Richmond with Graham Hockless sustaining a knee injury that will still keep him out for another three weeks. The Eagles remained unbeaten under Stubbins when fighting back to earn a 1-1 draw with the Melbourne Knights through a very early second half goal from Korcarevski.

With ten games remaining and two points adrift at the foot of the ladder, time is running out for the Bartlett Reserve outfit to escape the drop. The nature of the Vodafone Cup in 2006 means that this is by no means impossible, the even state of the competition making successive wins allow to teams to climb two or three places at a time. The upcoming games at home against Green Gully and Sunshine Geor-

gies will remain vital to Richmond's hopes of staying up.

Robinson, Korcarevski and Visevic should continue to create scoring chances, converting them will be critical. They could soon be joined by Xhezair Sulemani when he regains fitness. Rajher has been the biggest loss in the middle of the park, but apart from him and Hockless all other midfielders and defenders are available. With recent acquisition Stuart McCluskey, Richmond is more solid at the back than the first time around in the season.

By Mark Boric

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

James Robinson 7
Daniel Visevic 4
Veton Korcarevski 3

ALTONA MAGIC FC



FANS of Altona Magic's Vodafone Cup team have been blessed with success in the last few years. A perennial finalist, the Magic is again on target to play in the last few weeks of the season after a stellar opening 16 rounds.

Understandably, coach Ken Murphy could not be happier with the situation as his players take a well-earned two-week break.

"If you told me at the start of the season that we'd be sitting third at this stage I would have been happy," he said.

"I think every game we've played we've done well enough to beat the opposition team, so we're sitting in a reasonably comfortable position."

Altona was the most impressive team in the first eight rounds, a period which it did not drop a single point. Its only losses so far came against ladder leader Oakleigh in round nine (2-1) and in round 14 against Fawkner-Whittlesea (1-0).

It bounced back from the unexpected loss against the Blues a week later, posting one of the biggest results of the year to become the only side to defeat second-placed Kingston at home.

While scoring goals has not been a problem so far for the Magic, it has been the defensive end which has been the most impressive.

After 16 rounds the boys from Paisley Park have conceded just 12 goals – the only team averaging less than one goal against per match.

After conceding three goals to South Melbourne in Altona's final loss last year, Murphy has set about moulding his unit into a successfully unforgiving de-

fensive side.

"We highlighted that about last season, that our defensive game let us down," he said.

"We've worked extremely hard and put a lot of focus on it this year, and to have the best defensive record so far is very satisfying."

"They are keeping their shape very well and it's very rare that we expose our 'keeper one off one."

Another reason for the successful beginning to the season has been the closeness of the playing group and their willingness to go the extra yard their team-mates.

"We seem to have a squad of players that seem to get along with each other quite well, and the camaraderie is quite good," Murphy said.

"Every one of them is putting a big effort in, and the important thing is that we just keep going."

"They seem to be enjoying it, which is a good thing."

With 10 weeks left until the finals Altona has not quite locked in a top six spot, but a steady performance in the run home should see it involved in the September action.

The players enjoyed a light week on the training track last week, getting together instead for a brainstorming session to work on ways in which they can improve in the final third of the campaign.

Murphy identified the need to turn potential drawn games – of which they have accumulated an equal league-high seven so far – into three-point victories.

Also on the to do list is to find more goals from midfield to assist club leading goalscorer Sash Becvinovski, who also leads the Vodafone Cup with 11 goals.

The next best for the Magic is Igor Arsovski with four, as Koce Delev, Igor Kolevski and Tomi Razov look to hit their straps in the coming weeks. Altona returns to the pitch with a dangerous away trip to Essendon Royals on Sunday 26 June.

By James Taylor

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Sash Becvinovski 11
Igor Arsovski 4
Tomi Razov 2

OAKLEIGH CANNONS FC



With sixteen pulsating rounds of the 2006 Vodafone Cup completed, many pundits' championship favourites the Oakleigh Cannons, are sitting four points clear of their nearest rivals South Melbourne and hold a game in hand.

The season started with so much promise whereby Stuart Munro sought to bolster a squad that was already brimming with stars. The board underlined their ambitions and granted Munro's wishes by signing several household names boasting international experience, including Esala Masi, Bill Damianos Steve Lawrie and the nomadic veteran Con Boutsianis.

Stuart Munro and his men fully deserve their first place position as they have wooed crowds across Victoria with their exciting brand of football bringing them 31 goals and conceding only 16 goals, ranking them second in both areas. In addition to their impressive goal difference record is a new found resilience that has not been seen before from the Cannons.

In previous seasons the teams' poor discipline, internal disharmony, management instability and inability to play when the chips are down proved to be their undoing. To the Cannons credit, they have displayed all the hallmarks of a championship side as they have come from behind on several occasions to grind out results. This was evident, when former Fijian international Esala Masi, scored an injury time screamer in front of a packed Jack Edwards Reserve in February. This

strike not only earned the Cannons a valuable point against fellow championship hopefuls Kingston City, but also a psychological advantage over their rivals. To add to the Oakleigh Cannons remarkable season and togetherness never seen before, was the unfortunate passing away of one of their favourite sons, Peter Kakos which shocked and saddened an entire community. Kakos was a consummate professional who loved his football and proved pivotal to much of the success the Cannons have enjoyed this season. He is being sorely missed by everyone who knew the striker and indeed the entire football community. At the beginning of the season I predicted a top six finish for the Cannons and barring an injury crisis, Oakleigh's quality squad backed by their passionate supporters and a team spirit that is second to none, should see the Cannons finish in first position, giving them the best passage to advance through to the final.

CP's Prediction
Minor Premiers
"The Cannons depth, the quality possessed in all positions and strong resilience will see them as Minor Premiers"

By Chris Piftis

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Sash Becvinovski 11
Igor Arsovski 4
Tomi Razov 2



VODAFONE CUP

Review



BULEEN ZEBRAS FC



Following an extremely disappointing 2005 season, where the then reigning premiers narrowly avoided relegation, the Zebras have bounced back this season in a manner which many football pundits would not have believed was possible.

With Michael Michalakopoulos at the helm, the Zebras have produced an efficient brand of football that may be deemed as frustrating, but ultimately produces the wanted and necessary result on most occasions.

Although the side has been more than sound in defence, with the back four proving to be amongst the most miserly in the competition, Buleen has struggled at the other end of the park with key signing Ricky Diaco netting solely two goals in his seven appearances for the club.

However, while the team's lack of a proven goalscorer may be deemed as a weakness, Buleen has players capable of scoring goals all over the park, including surprise packet and relative unknown prior to this season, Hamlet Armenian.

While the 2004 premiers are accomplished at scraping out results, a trait which will hold them in good stead come finals time, when the team has conceded more than one goal, the defence has been quite prone to leaking a few more.

This is evidenced by the fact the side has conceded four goals on three separate occasions so far this season. If Buleen plans on emulating the feats of their team circa 2004, this is a tendency that the Michalakopoulos led side needs to eliminate immediately.

Buleen's recent form has proved sketchy at best, with the side recording solely one win in the last four encounters. As the championship moves into its latter stages, the four time Vodafone Cup champions need to arrest this current trend in order to build some momentum and mount a late surge up the table.

One of only two teams to have conquered the high-flying Oakleigh Cannons, Buleen has suffered from bouts of inconsistency at varying stages throughout the season thus far. A prime example was following their 4-1 trouncing at the hands of four-time national champions South Melbourne, the Zebras were able to scrap past the Cannons by the smallest of margins in Round 12.

Whether or not the side continues to possess this giant killing ability remains to be seen, however if the side can find a more regular avenue to goal, Buleen may be the dark horse for the Vodafone Cup title.

By Simon Chiarelli

FAWKNER-WHITTLESEA BLUES FC

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA'S season-long battle with a mounting injury list has almost been won as the club begins preparations for the run in to the Vodafone Cup finals.

The club will use the two-week break to nurse its players back to full health in a bid to put its preferred combination on the park - a luxury it has not enjoyed all season.

"The whole season has been a bit injury prone for a lot of players, from day one," Blues coach John Markovski said.

"We've got some time off so we can get a few more players on the park, and hopefully after the break I can have a full team to choose from."

For large chunks of the season the Blues have missed key playmakers Jurica Siljanovski, Sasa Ognjenovski, Zoran Petrevski, John Angelovski and Mark Silic, exposing an inexperienced line-up for many of its matches.

Fawknor/Whittlesea began the season on the back foot with three consecutive losses as many of its stars looked on from the sidelines, but has slowly picked itself up as the weeks rolled on.

By round 11, the Blues were still in the bottom half with just three wins in the bank and a long list of injuries.

But a few wounded first team regulars have returned for the last couple of weeks, bringing stability, experience and most importantly, results.

The last five weeks have yielded three wins in a timely return to form, lifting the team to within striking distance of sixth place.

Now, like the same stage last year, the Blues are primed to make their run toward the finals as a number of its injured stars return to full fitness.

"We've been a little bit more consistent in the last three or four games," Markovski said.

"To beat Altona, who are a great side, and then to back up against South Melbourne the week after was a great result for the club and the boys."

"The boys have been a bit unlucky so far and hopefully we can turn it around in the second half of the season."

In a blow to the team's finals aspirations, Fawknor/Whittlesea's defensive general Ognjenovski waved goodbye to his team-mates last week on his way to joining A-League outfit Queensland Roar.

Markovski admitted the loss of Ognjenovski would leave a gap in his team's defence, but was never going to stand in the way of his chance to play in the country's highest standard competition.

"Sash is a quality player. He's done really well, and his opportunity has come to play in an higher league and I



wish him all the best," Markovski said.

"It gives an opportunity for a younger bloke to step up to senior level, and we've got plenty of younger players."

Fawknor/Whittlesea's immediate challenge after the two-week break will be an Italian derby against Buleen on Sunday 25 June.

Beyond that, the team will continue on its quest to better last year's exit from the first week of the finals.

"Our intentions are to make the top six, the same as the start of the season," Markovski said.

"With the players we've got, we should be capable of making the top five or six."

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Mark Tsiorlas 8
Carl Recchia 6
Sasa Ognjenovski 4

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Hamlet Armenian 4
Ben Harbinson 4
Ricky Diaco 2



GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS FC



WHISPERS of relegation have not been a common occurrence around Green Gully Reserve in the last decade.

But the dreaded 'R word' has followed the Cavaliers for much of the 2006 Vodafone Cup season so far, as the team struggles to recapture the form that saw it claim last year's Victorian Premier League title.

But while the current ladder position - 12th with three wins from 15 appearances - suggests a grim outlook for Gully, in reality it is not far off the pace.

On numerous occasions the team has led or been level in the second half, only to concede late goals and valuable points.

"We're looking to turn the season around after a first half performance which was a bit average for Green Gully standards," Cavaliers coach Andrew Marth

said.

"I'd be very disappointed if we weren't playing attractive soccer, but we are."

The problem, as was feared at the beginning of the season, has been in the forward half.

Green Gully's failure to secure a noted striker in the preseason left a huge burden on its talented midfield and young forwards, and the result has been a drought of goals.

Positively, midfield dynamo Brandon Vassallo has been pushed forward to good effect and youngster Matthew Sanders has proved he has a bright future in the green and white.



It was only last week that Gully moved out of the bottom two, courtesy of a desperate performance and 2-0 victory over Frankston.

"It was like a grand final scenario for us, and it will be the same when we play Richmond," Marth said.

The win was the first in eight matches for the Cavaliers and may be the turning point for the run home.

"First and foremost we want to make sure we're safe, but we want to push for the top six."

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

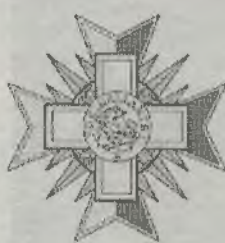
Brandon Vassallo 5
Matt Sanders 6
Zoran Markovski 2



VODAFONE CUP

Review


SUNSHINE GEORGIES FC



V A TEAM used to the pressure of relegation battles is Sunshine Georgies, a team which has been in impressive form in the month prior to the two-week break.

After staying in the top division last year, the Georgies have continued to improve in the first half of this season and look capable of sneaking into the top six.

After a slow start yielded just four points from a possible 18, Sunshine has steadily collected draw and wins as it moved ever closer to the top teams in the competition.

"We feel now that relegation is less of an issue than making the playoffs is," Sunshine football operations manager Benny Anastasiadis said.

"Many would have thought we'd be content to see off relegation, but we're looking far beyond that now." New coach Joe Montemurro, who took over in round seven, has four wins, three draws and three losses to round 16, a solid result for a fresh face to Chaplin Reserve.

The Georgies experienced a lean spell from rounds eight to 11, but victories against Heidelberg, Fawkner/Whittlesea and most recently Essendon in the last five weeks has breathed life into their finals aspirations.

The inclusions of livewire Fidel Richards and consistent performer Mark Draycott have been crucial to Sunshine's chances this year, the pair contributing nine of the club's 20 goals.

"It took them about three weeks to settle in and get their match fitness up, but since they've started scoring goals they haven't stopped," Anastasiadis said. Sunshine is expecting to further strengthen the squad with the arrival of two players from Paraguay next week, and is ready for their attack on the second portion of the season.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Fidell Richards 5

Mark Draycott 4

Trent Waterson 2

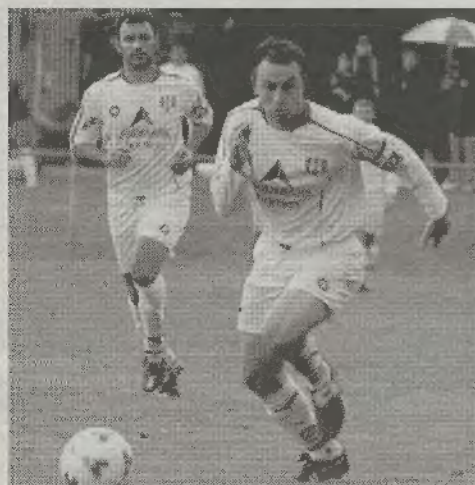
KINGSTON CITY FC



Will Kingston turn around a poor run of form and continue their push for top spot? Or will the rigors of a first Vodafone Cup season result in a battle to make the final six at all?

Of their eight wins at the mid season break, six have come at home for the Reds, Grange Reserve on a Friday night proving a happy hunting ground until only recently.

The 1-0 home defeat to Altona in round 15 has contributed to a mini-slump, Kingston taking just one point from their three matches leading into the break. A break that couldn't have come at a better time for George Katsakis' men, given their next opponent Heidelberg had their back-to-back winning run halted by two weeks rest.



The highlight and lowlight of Kingston's season to date has come against the same side. In derby fixtures against South Melbourne, the Reds proved comprehensive winners at Grange Reserve, 3-0, but revenge was enacted by South, 4-1 at Bob Jane.

So to the remaining ten rounds of the season, and what Kingston must do to maintain their lofty league position. While the Reds will continue to field a potent attack, with the likes of Joe Spiteri, Michael Curcija and Joey Di Iorio to chose from in the final third, holding solid at the back will be tougher. Con Anthopoulos, Steve Iosifidis and Chris Konstans have all proven their merit at home, but 15 goals conceded in 9 away games poses questions. However the Reds will only have themselves to blame if they continue to leak goals away from Grange Reserve, as the only top six side they travel to in the remaining matches will be Bulleen, who have just 17 goals of their own in 16 Vodafone Cup matches this season.

The player to watch for is the creative and clever Jim Latinopoulos, whose left foot should continue to provide assists for the clinical close-range finisher Curcija. A-League recruit and Chinese national Xiaobin Zhang will also bring a touch of class, and lethal long range shots to the midfield set up.

By Teo Pelizzeri

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Michael Curcija 10

Joe Spiteri 7

Joe Di Iorio 3

HEIDELBERG UTD WARRIORS FC



Coming off the back of a devastating Grand Final defeat, one would be mistaken for thinking Heidelberg United would stroll into the finals campaign the following season.

How wrong so called experts were. Rocked by the news late in the pre-season that influential playmaker Bill Damianos had requested a transfer to the Oakleigh Cannons, the Bergers suddenly found themselves racing against the clock with the season opener looming. Coach Phil Stubbins was forced to react quickly to upgrade his midfield options and signed Aaron Westerveld from South Australia and Frank Lagana from Empoli to compensate the loss.

The interrupted pre-season activities also created some controversy in and around the club. Some queried the departure of young gun Brendan Beni to newly promoted Richmond, likewise with Veton Korcarevski. The word out of the Village however, was that there was adequate cover for the departures.

Those concerns turned into problems when Heidelberg hosted fierce rivals South Melbourne on the opening day of the league, when a poor crowd turned out to witness South come away 2 nil victors. Although both goals came at the death, Heidelberg looked flat, unconvincing and lacked any real spark in the final third.

Their interrupted pre-season wasn't about to produce miracles with new signing Sarantis Parissos struggling to settle in his new surroundings but perhaps the biggest worry for Alexander was their genuine lack of any real substance in the middle of the park. What was to follow was a string of poor results, winning only one of their next five and the threat of relegation rang loudly around The Village.

The Bergers needed a spark and when the chips are down, it's a proven leader that comes up trumps. So it was no surprise when club captain Eric Vassiliadis stepped up late on against Fawkner/Whittlesea to kick-start Heidelberg's season. Just a week later, the boys played brilliantly to upset ladder leader Kingston City at The Village with club favourite Nick Marinos netting ten minutes from time to send the faithful into raptures.

The more promising news however for Alexander was the form of Sebastian Petrovich since crossing from South Melbourne pre-season and the permanent left sided role for Jim Drossos since arriving from the Cannons after his position at Oakleigh was made expendable due to their signing of Cameron Pino from Altona. Petrovich has impressed so far this season with his ball winning in the midfield and has great ability to run at defenders with his zipping speed, where as

Drossos is a breath of fresh air for the Bergers, finally being able to provide some delivery to the marksmen.

Just when you thought the season was cruising along for Alexander, a winless patch from four games, including a 4-1 home humiliation to the Sunshine Georgies, resulted in the club parting ways with head coach Phil Stubbins. His replacement would be assistant Con Pappas on a permanent basis, Pappas' coaching career didn't get off to the best of starts when once again The Bergers were humbled by South, this time by the tune of 3 goals to 1.

With the Melbourne Victory releasing Andy Vlahos out of his contract with the A League club, the board wasted no time in signing Vlahos as they were confident he could help turn their fortunes around. He played an influential role on a waterlogged Olympic Village and had ample support from Nick Marinos and Petrovich as Alexander stunned ladder leader Oakleigh on a night where only strokes of genius would get you the three points.

Vlahos turned it on again eight days later when his man of the match performance inspired Heidelberg to a heart stopping injury time win against the Bulleen Zebras at the Veneto Club. A Nick Sabljak free kick with virtually the last kick of the game sealed the match and sent the Berger contingent wild with exuberant celebrations.

Despite an indifferent start to the season, The Bergers cannot be disappointed with their current ladder position, which sees them sitting fifth, two points above the Melbourne Knights who are seventh. Not too many clubs can say they've parted company with their coach and are still in the top tier of the table. Real tests now appear though for Alexander with their next two home games being locked out due to earlier crowd disturbances.

I truly believe the result against the Zebras is the turning point for this soccer club and feel they can only improve on their current ladder position and once you're there come finals time, anything is possible. The Bergers next three games are against sides in the bottom four and will be encouraged to be picking up maximum points from these fixtures, starting with the Frankston Pines on 25th June.

By George Sahinidis & Phillip Foudoulis

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Nick Marinos 6

Nick Sabljak 3

Eric Vassiliadis 3

PRESTON LIONS FC



At best, Preston Lions' 2006 Vodafone Cup campaign could be described as a turbulent one thus far. Expectations for one of the league's proudest club was to be right up there and challenging for honours, however for most of the initial stages of the

championship race found itself in unfamiliar territory, in last place and propping up the rest of the ladder. Surprisingly it took until round seven with

a 3-1 victory against Frankston Pines for the Lions to record its first win of the season, but not before we saw another coaching change in the league when Vlado Vanis surrendered his duties to crowd favourite Goran Lozanovski. On top of that the club was forced to switch its home games to Epping Stadium after Connor Reserve was deemed unfit to play on due to a damaged surface.

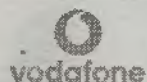
Since Lozanovski's appointment the team has slowly begun to climb towards the top six and may well yet prove to be a force to be reckoned with before the year is out. Johnny Sapazovski has returned to the fold after a short stint at Fawkner and the club also gained the services of Marinos Gasparis from Sunshine to bolster its ranks. The Lions always look threatening going forward with plenty of options with Anthony Magnacca's silky skills feeding the front runners and with a little tweaking at the back could still have a big say in who rules this year's Vodafone Cup.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Anthony Magnacca 8

Nick Lazarevski 4

Blaze Giorgovski 2



VODAFONE CUP

Review


SOUTH MELBOURNE FC



A third placed finish in their inaugural Premier League season in 2005, left South Melbourne coach John Anastasiadis aiming for a top two spot in 2006. With just 10 rounds of the home and away competition to go, his team appears to be on target, having climbed to second spot. But it hasn't always

looked as promising for the Lakesiders, particularly when an early season slump saw the side win just two from seven matches after round two. The slump threatened their place in the top six, before some recent home victories righted the ship and fast tracked them back up the table.

Coach Anastasiadis believes a number of factors were responsible for the early season slump. One factor was the necessary adjustment period for pre-season recruits. "It doesn't exactly take overnight for the players to adapt to the way we play." He also believes that injuries to key players stalled his team's early progress. With injuries to key central defenders Con Blatsis and Arthur Tsonis and the departure of Jonas Salley to the A-League, Anastasiadis had to revamp his defense.

"My backline this year hasn't been one of those experienced backlines but nevertheless the boys who came in did the job and performed well. At times, the backline had an average age of about 20 and to see these boys prosper is very gratifying. They've played a part too."

Anastasiadis admits that, at times, early in the season the side wasn't playing well. "I thought we were lacking in front of goal, which was our biggest problem." Recent results have seen South turn their biggest problem into their biggest asset.

A remarkable 21 goals in their last five matches must have other sides wondering what's in the water down at Bob Jane and opposition coaches thinking of ways to counter South's freescoreing.

In fact, South's 32 goals this season tops the league's goal scoring charts and already surpasses the team's 30 goal tally for the entire 2005 season.

Anastasiadis explains a couple of factors that may be responsible for the turnaround in goalscoring. "When we were playing at the start of the season, when the boys were just getting through 2-1 and 1-0 results, we were creating lots of chances which for some reason, just weren't going in. This time it's changed. We're creating not as many chances but the chances we're creating are all going in. At training, we've worked hard at it, with extra sessions put on, concentrating on goal scoring. The boys are more composed in front of goals. They've got to believe in themselves. When they're in front of goals, they've got to believe it's going to go in."

Anastasiadis believes that the arrival of the three new Perth players in round nine has also made a difference in attitude, especially with one of them being a striker.

"That's put a bit of pressure on the forwards too."

They've obviously said 'We've got to start performing' and they truly have. And you see that everyone now has a go. People like Kevin Nelson who was struggling. He's scored five goals in two games. That for us is great to see... To come to the break, sitting in second position, that's satisfying."

Despite the excellent recent form, a couple of question marks remain. South may need to contemplate playing without the services of influential playmaker and leading goal-scorer, Fernando De Moraes who recently trialled with Queensland Roar and has also reportedly attracted interest from a Greek first division club, Anastasiadis says. "Fernando's availability is an unknown at the moment. I think we'll find out on Monday." The other question mark is South's poor away record having just won once, in eight away games, in season 2006. This is in stark contrast to their 100 percent home record.

Anastasiadis says, "Some of our best games have been played away from home, but obviously we haven't been good enough in getting the score on the board. We'll certainly change a few things in the system, away from home and hopefully that will work for us for the remainder of the season."

If South Melbourne can pick up two or three wins on the road, and maintain their excellent home record, they should be able to consolidate their place in the top two.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Fernando de Moraes 8
Kevin Nelson 7
Vaughn Coveney 5



After 16 rounds of the Vodafone cup competition the Essendon Royals find themselves in 11th place and just above the drop zone. However, the league is so tight this year that with a couple of positive results the Royals could find themselves

right up there again and challenging for a top six final position.

The loss of last season's top goal scorer Michael Curcija to big spending rivals Kingston City has proved to be a harder task to find an equal replacement than perhaps first thought. Curcija finished 2005 with a total of 16 goals – the same return the Royals have been able to deliver so far this season.

Whilst the club has been served well by impressive individual displays from the likes of Steve Fitzsimmons, youngster Frank Catalano, Serdar Pir, Henry Fa'arodo and Marko Sutalo in goals, the squad has remained as competitive as ever but unfortunately has lacked the firepower and edge to really penetrate and make a difference in front of goals.

Another coaching change during the course of the season probably didn't help proceedings either, as



Luciano Trani made way for David Winton. Royals' fans will be hoping the two week break the league has endured during the World Cup will provide Winton and the club with the perfect platform to rest, regroup and recharge as it prepares itself for a second half of the season assault on the run-in home.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Henry Fa'arodo 3
Len Catalano 2
Michael Catalano 2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS FC



The Knights looked like serious title contenders early on in the season, going undefeated in their first six matches, with three wins and three draws. Their defensive record was impeccable, conceding three goals in six outings, whilst finding the back of the net nine times.

Whilst unfortunately for the Knights faithful, that early season form is but a distant memory, as ten games on, the boys from Sommers street have only managed to secure two wins, three draws and five losses. They have managed to find the back of the net twelve more times, whilst conceding fifteen goals. Just to top off their form slump, they received a whopping seven goal shellacking from their old foe South Melbourne last week. Arguably, their worst defeat in decades.

Last weeks hiding to South was the straw that broke the camels back, as then coach Josip Biskic immediately terminated his tenure with the Knights, notifying the lads in the confines of the change rooms at Bob Jane stadium. I guess the



irony is, that almost a year on, his second coaching stint with the Knight's ended where it began, at Bob Jane stadium. Assistant Josip Spoljar for the interim has been installed as caretaker coach, as the VPL coaching merry-go-round takes its eighth turn of the season.

The question is, what does the future hold for the Knights for the remainder of the season? Well after their implosion to South last week, not much. They struggle against classy opposition i.e. South, Kingston etc, even though they have displayed the required technical abilities early on in the season. Even if they were Eleven Guus Hiddink's on the bench against South, it would not have mattered at all, as the manner in which the boys capitulated had more to do about the commitment to each other and the shirt, rather than any coaching or tactical nous. The contrast in their blistering early season form and last weeks insipidness raises more questions than answers. As it seems that the Knights are the Forrest Gump chocolates of the league "You never know which team you will get each week."

A finish between seventh and tenth is the most likely outcome for the Knights in season 2006. Potential squandered is a fitting description for the 2006 Knights.

By Bruno Zovko

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Nathan Caldwell 6
Andrew Barisic 3
Dario Matkovic 3

FRANKSTON PINES FC



At the beginning of the season Frankston Pines were regarded by many to be one of the favourites for relegation from this year's Vodafone Cup. During the off season the club was busy in finding a replacement for well respected coach Stan Webster, who

took the club from the State League First Division to a VPL Grand Final in successive seasons before departing Monterey Reserve for a new challenge at Dandenong Thunder.

The Pines embarked on the 2006 season in a determined fashion, defying its critics under new coach and ex-player Craig Lewis. After impressive victories against reigning champs Green Gully, Melbourne Knights and Sunshine Georgies as well as honorable draws with the likes of Heidelberg United and South Melbourne, the Pines were happily getting the points on the board nice and early, safely keeping itself above the relegation zone.



Uncharacteristically, the club also delved heavily into the transfer market and sought itself three prized recruits in Dino Djulevic, Andreas Oliveira and Antonio Naglieri from Western Australia to bolster its squad. By round ten the first of a series of unforeseen off-field circumstances began to surface and the Peninsula club's promising start to the season soon began to look extremely vulnerable. Firstly, the trio from Perth dropped a bombshell on the club after being enticed by South Melbourne to join its ranks at the apparently more glamorous surrounds of Bob Jane. Little more than a fortnight later Craig Lewis announced that he'd been offered a job in Dubai that was "too good to refuse" and the proverbial wheels looked like they were starting to fall off the Pines' 2006 campaign. Former player and youth coach Adam Jamieson then took charge, only to be thrown into the deep end with his first game in charge ending in a 4-1 defeat to Oakleigh Cannons, who were at that time undefeated as well as the league leaders.

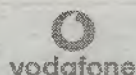
Just when things looked like it couldn't get any worse, over the last couple of weeks reports alleging the club found itself in a spot of financial bother began to surface, with no less than five players and the new coach ready to walk if certain obligations weren't kept.

After an extraordinary committee meeting at the club last Tuesday threatening issues were thankfully resolved and hopefully everyone at the Pines can get back to concentrating on playing football once again.

With ten rounds left to go and 30 points left to play for, final standings are far from being decided. The club has a reputation of battling against the odds and will look to players like Cam Leopold, Trent Malcolm, Michael Anderson, Cam Jones and the return from injury of Nick Waite to lead by example and show the way for the rest of the squad.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Cam Leopold 2
Colin Stewart 2
Nick Waite 2



STATE LEAGUES



Seniors	NORTH WEST 2	Reserves	Seniors	SOUTH EAST 2	Reserves	ROUND 11 FIXTURES
<p>Moreland City 2 Thomastown Devils 2 (HT: 2-1), Pascoe Vale 0 Lalor United 0 (HT: 0-0), Yarraville Glory 0 Keilor Park 0 (HT: 0-0), Maribyrnong Greens 2 (F Husanovic) Westvale 1 (G Oles) (HT: 2-0), Williamstown 0 Altona City 1 (M Cullen) (HT: 0-0), Banyule City 2 (S Pouniotis, W Sismanis) Westgate 3 (D Glogovac, D Mordaca, M Sivic) (HT: 1-2)</p>	<p>Moreland City 3 Thomastown Devils 1, Pascoe Vale 2 Lalor United 2, Yarraville Glory 0 Keilor Park 3, Maribyrnong Greens 3 Westvale 5, Williamstown 2 Altona City 3, Banyule City 2 Westgate 3</p>	<p>Southern Stars 0 Diamond Valley United 0 (HT: 0-0), Clifton Hill United 1 (C Popa) Chelsea 2 (P Presti, T Bosnjak) (HT: 0-1), Cranbourne Comets 0 Doncaster Rovers 1 (A Wiles) (HT: 0-0), Stonnington City 0 Eastern Lions SC 0 (HT: 0-0), Waverley Wanderers 3 (A Strapielas 2) Knox City 1 (R Nasser) (HT: 2-0), Clayton 1 (S Kramar) South Springvale 5 (E Voursoulis, G Tzouramanis, A Goutziouts 2) (HT: 1-1)</p>	<p>Southern Stars 3 Diamond Valley United 0, Clifton Hill United 2 Chelsea 3, Cranbourne Comets 0 Doncaster Rovers 5, Stonnington City 2 Eastern Lions SC 1, Waverley Wanderers 1 Knox City 3, Clayton 0 South Springvale 2</p>	<p>Stonnington City SC 11 10 1 0 30 9 31 Doncaster Rovers SC 11 8 1 2 43 18 25 Chelsea SC 11 8 1 2 38 21 25 Knox City SC 11 7 1 3 26 19 22 South Springvale SC 11 5 3 3 28 20 18 Diamond Valley United SC 11 4 3 4 16 15 15 Eastern Lions SC 11 4 2 5 21 22 14 Cranbourne Comets SC 11 3 3 5 16 25 12 Clayton SC 11 3 0 8 17 39 9 Clifton Hill United SC 11 2 1 8 15 27 7 Southern Stars FC 11 2 8 16 35 5 Waverley Wanderers SC 11 0 4 7 16 38 4</p>	<p>State 2 NW 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Thomastown Devils Campbell Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Lalor United Hosken Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Keilor Park McIvor Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Westvale Skinner Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Altona City JT Gray Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Westgate Yal-lambie Park Reserve</p>	
Seniors	NORTH WEST 3	Reserves	Seniors	SOUTH EAST 3	Reserves	
<p>North Sunshine Eagles 1 (C Macedo) Sydenham Park 2 (G Petrovski 2) (HT: 0-1), Geelong Rangers 1 (D Corry) Ballarat Soccer Club 3 (R Rykers, S Digilolamo, P McClounan) (HT: 1-1), Albion Rovers 0 Werribee City 0 (HT: 0-0), Lalor 3 (D Jovic, S Koddeviren, D Christou) La Trobe University 0 (HT: 2-0), Western Eagles 0 Geelong 2 (B Leban, R Georgieleski) (HT: 0-1), Sunbury United 5 (V Leonardo, V Kalayci, A Kalayci, D Gray) Corio 2 (S Ghinovski, A Blundo) (HT: 3-0)</p>	<p>North Sunshine Eagles 1 Sydenham Park 2, Geelong Rangers 4 Ballarat Soccer Club 6, Albion Rovers 4 Werribee City 2, Lalor 1 La Trobe University 1, Western Eagles 0 Geelong 1, Sunbury United 2 Corio 0</p>	<p>Dandenong City 2 (GR Andrews) Eltham North 0 (HT: 1-0), Old Carey 1 (T Davidson) Mornington 4 (A Halikias 2, N Wood, J Copley) (HT: 0-1), Dandenong Warriors 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (HT: 0-0), Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Dandenong Sparrows 1 (HT: 0-0), Boroondara Lions 1 (M Magnis) Endeavour Hills 2 (D Maria, A Mustafa) (HT: 0-0), Caulfield United 5 (S Varsamis, P Alisaphos 2, A Zafropoulos, B Nuka) Ringwood City 1 (K Stewart) (HT: 3-0)</p>	<p>Templestowe Eagles 2 Mooroolbark 3, Sandringham City 3 Monbulk 1, Fitzroy City 1 Berwick City 6, Morwell Pegasus 3 Heatherton United 3, Frankston Strikers 0 Nunawading City 1, North Caulfield 5 Endeavour United 0</p>	<p>Sandringham City SC 11 8 2 1 27 17 28 Heatherton United SC 11 8 1 2 26 12 25 North Caulfield SC 11 7 3 1 22 12 24 Mooroolbark SC 11 4 5 2 23 16 17 Templestowe Eagles SC 11 5 2 4 19 19 17 Berwick City SC 11 4 4 3 22 15 18 Endeavour United SC 11 5 1 5 19 25 16 Fitzroy City SC 11 3 4 4 22 19 13 Morwell Pegasus SC 11 5 5 16 25 8 Frankston Strikers SC 11 2 2 7 11 27 8 Nunawading City SC 11 3 7 15 23 6 Monbulk SC 11 1 2 8 13 25 5</p>	<p>State 3 NW 17 Jun 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Sydenham Park Larissa Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Ballarat Soccer Club Myers Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Werribee City Green Gully Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Lalor v La Trobe University RGC Cook Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Geelong Polish Sports & Rec. Centre 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Corio Langama Park</p>	
Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves	Seniors	PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST	Reserves	
<p>Darebin United 0 Hume United 2 (H Andrade, J Barrientos) (HT: 0-2), Glenroy 1 (S Babic) Elwood City 0 (HT: 1-0), Melbourne City 0 Avondale Heights 1 (M Calandrella) (HT: 0-1), Hoppers Crossing 3 (V Honore, Z Tountas) Laverton Park 4 (V De La Plaza, J Marambio) (HT: 2-3), Mill Park 3 Brimbank 2 (HT: 2-1), Plenty Valley Lions 2 (C Nikoleidis 2) Melbourne University Rangers 1 (A Griffith) (HT: 0-1)</p>	<p>Templestowe Eagles 2 Mooroolbark 3, Sandringham City 3 Monbulk 1, Fitzroy City 1 Berwick City 6, Morwell Pegasus 3 Heatherton United 3, Frankston Strikers 0 Nunawading City 1, North Caulfield 5 Endeavour United 0</p>	<p>Doveton 2 (B Mijatovic 2) White Star Dandenong 1 (K Salih) (HT: 1-0), Riversdale SC 0 Southern Suburbs 0 (HT: 0-0), Brandon Park 3 (S Kynazis, J Wadell, S Kennedy) Noble Park United 2 (A Jankovic, R Dador) (HT: 2-2), Camrun United 0 Monash University 3 (A Manadassan) (HT: 0-2), Rowville Eagles 0 Croydon City Arrows 0 (HT: 0-0), Warragul United 3 (P McCuskey, A Pittsano, P Sheehan) Springvale City Vales 3 (D Rizvic 2) (HT: 1-0)</p>	<p>Doveton 5 White Star Dandenong 1, Riversdale SC 3 Southern Suburbs 2, Brandon Park 1 Noble Park United 0, Camrun United 1 Monash University 4, Rowville Eagles 0 Croydon City Arrows 4, Warragul United 9 Springvale City Vales 1</p>	<p>Riversdale SC 11 7 2 2 21 12 23 Brandon Park SC 11 6 4 1 22 16 22 Monash University SC 11 6 2 3 21 9 20 Warragul United SC 11 5 4 2 31 17 19 Doveton SC 11 8 1 4 25 20 19 Southern Suburbs SC 11 5 3 3 28 15 18 Croydon City Arrows SC 11 4 5 2 19 15 17 Camrun United SC 11 4 0 7 12 23 12 Rowville Eagles SC 11 3 3 1 7 18 31 0 Noble Park United SC 11 1 6 4 9 13 9 Springvale City Vales SC 11 2 3 6 25 32 4 White Star Dandenong SC 11 1 1 9 15 39 4</p>	<p>Provi 1 NW 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Darebin United v Hume United Mayer Park 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Glenroy v Elwood City Strathnaver Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Melbourne City v Avondale Heights Edwards Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Laverton Park Grange Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Mill Park v Brimbank Findon Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Melbourne University Rangers Bundoora Park Pavilion</p>	
Seniors	PROVI 2 NORTH WEST	Reserves	Seniors	PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST	Reserves	
<p>Northern Falcons 1 (A Ferrante) South Yarra 2 (P Riliche, S Thomson) (HT: 0-0), Brimbank City 4 (V Osmanovic 2, I Pella) Melbourne Tornado 1 (L Stolic) (HT: 0-1), Moreland United 0 Collingwood City 0 (HT: 0-0), West Preston 3 (R Zabic, J Tseboukas, J Maragos) Northern United 0 (HT: 3-0), Broadmeadows United 2 (O Kara, H Yangoz) Whittlesea United 4 (A Koc, O Aydin, T Altanhan, A Devaoglu) (HT: 2-0), North City Lions 2 (T Dalikouros, K Willmot) Uni. Of Melbourne Blues 1 (B Mitchell) (HT: 0-0)</p>	<p>Northern Falcons 2 South Yarra 3, Brimbank City 1 Melbourne Tornado 3, Moreland United 2 Collingwood City 1, West Preston 1 Northern United 1, Broadmeadows United 2 Whittlesea United 3, North City Lions 1 Uni. Of Melbourne Blues 3</p>	<p>Keysborough 5 (E Rodriguez 2, H Tran, S De La Plaza, Own Goal) Seaford United 0 (HT: 1-0), Old Xaverians 2 (A Vitale, G Perelli) Lyndale United 3 (N De Lorenzo, B Aiken) (HT: 1-1), Scotch Old Boys 5 (A Allford, N Jewitt 2, D Fielding, A Truong) Noble Park 0 (HT: 2-0), Beaumaris 1 (J Pennycook) Mitcham United 1 (L Spillie) (HT: 0-0), Ashburton 1 Old Trinity Grammarians 2 (R Pansele, A Hallam) (HT: 0-1), Old Melbourne 2 (A Carmody, J Pearce) Berwick Kings 2 (D Adamovic, L Medic) (HT: 1-1)</p>	<p>Doveton 5 White Star Dandenong 1, Riversdale SC 3 Southern Suburbs 2, Brandon Park 1 Noble Park United 0, Camrun United 1 Monash University 4, Rowville Eagles 0 Croydon City Arrows 4, Warragul United 9 Springvale City Vales 1</p>	<p>Old Melbourneians SC 11 10 1 0 49 10 31 Lyndale United SC 11 8 0 5 48 27 24 Ashburton SC 11 6 4 1 22 16 22 Beaumaris SC 11 6 3 2 30 11 21 Mitcham United SC 11 5 3 3 24 19 18 Berwick Kings FC 11 5 0 6 23 20 15 Noble Park SC 11 4 1 6 20 39 13 Seaford United SC 11 3 2 6 18 24 11 Keysborough SC 11 3 1 7 16 46 10 Scotch Old Boys SC 11 2 2 7 13 23 8 Old Trinity Grammarians 11 2 2 7 16 28 8 Old Xaverians SC 11 2 1 6 17 33 7</p>	<p>Provi 2 SE 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Keysborough v Seaford United Coomora Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Old Xaverians v Lyndale United Hays Paddock 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Scotch Old Boys v Noble Park Gardiners Creek Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Beaumaris v Mitcham United Beaumaris Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Ashburton v Old Trinity Grammarians Ashburton Park 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Old Melbourne v Berwick Kings Robert Menzies Reserve</p>	
Seniors	PROVI 3 NORTH WEST	Reserves	Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST	Reserves	
<p>Watsonia Heights 1 (A Bullen) Epping City 3 (M Nerone, T Stojanovski, M Tavolero) (HT: 0-1), Reservoir United Melton (HT: -), Keon Park 1 (F Tranchellia) Light United 1 (S Glick) (HT: 0-0), Youth United 0 Bell Park 1 (HT: 0-0), Hallam 2 (F Carvalho, A Jabur) Moreland Wolves 2 (D Coletta, J Gatt) (HT: 1-1), Meadow Park 1 Ascot Vale 2 (A Santos) (HT: 1-1)</p>	<p>Watsonia Heights 2 Epping City 2, Reservoir United Melton, Keon Park 1 Light United 1, Youth United 5 Bell Park 0, Hallam 5 Moreland Wolves 3, Meadow Park 2 Ascot Vale 1</p>	<p>Dandenong City 2 (GR Andrews) Eltham North 0 (HT: 1-0), Old Carey 1 (T Davidson) Mornington 4 (A Halikias 2, N Wood, J Copley) (HT: 0-1), Dandenong Warriors 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (HT: 0-0), Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Dandenong Sparrows 1 (HT: 0-0), Boroondara Lions 1 (M Magnis) Endeavour Hills 2 (D Maria, A Mustafa) (HT: 0-0), Caulfield United 5 (S Varsamis, P Alisaphos 2, A Zafropoulos, B Nuka) Ringwood City 1 (K Stewart) (HT: 3-0)</p>	<p>Dandenong City 0 Eltham North 2, Old Carey 2 Mornington 0, Dandenong Warriors 4 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Old Brighton Grammarians 4 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Boroondara Lions 5 Endeavour Hills 0, Caulfield United 0 Ringwood City 2</p>	<p>Boroondara Lions FC 11 9 1 1 39 2 28 Caulfield United SC 11 8 0 5 48 27 24 Old Carey SC 11 7 2 2 30 15 23 Ringwood City SC 11 6 1 5 32 16 16 Mornington SC 10 5 0 6 23 19 16 Dandenong Warriors SC 11 4 2 5 24 22 14 Dandenong Sparrows SC 10 4 1 6 23 20 13 Endeavour Hills SC 10 4 1 5 19 28 13 Old Camberwell Grammar 11 2 1 8 11 33 7 Eltham North SC 11 0 0 11 2 77 0 Dandenong City SC 11 0 0 11 2 77 0</p>	<p>Provi 3 SE 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Dandenong City v Eltham North Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Old Carey v Mornington Carey Sports Complex (Wilcox Field) 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Dandenong Warriors v Old Camberwell Grammar Lois Twohig Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Old Brighton Grammarians v Dandenong Sparrows Dandy Park 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Boroondara Lions v Endeavour Hills Macleay Park 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Caulfield United v Ringwood City Victory Park</p>	

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STATE LEAGUE ONE

Round 11



STATE ONE REACHES HALF WAY MARK

As the Vodafone Cup takes the second week of its midseason sabbatical, Division One again takes centre stage as the main event in Victoria football and there was a weekend of games which didn't disappoint.

Saturday saw a battle of two high flyers as Western Suburbs made the trip down the Princes Highway to Lara to lock horns with the North Geelong Warriors. After a plucky first half which saw the home side lead two goals to one at the break the visiting Suburbs side did as they have done much of the season, they dug deep and scored the only goal of the second half to see themselves grab a share of the spoils and keep themselves well in contention for one of the top two spots.

Meanwhile Saturday also saw Altona East travel to Dunstan Reserve in Brunswick to face Brunswick City. It proved to be an exciting contest and both sides showed glimpses of form which they possess and it was a first half goal by sharp little striker Benjamin Stafrace that decided the issue in favor of the home side. A good result for Brunswick, which maintains it in fourth spot and keeps it right in the promotion mix, while for Altona it once again failed to improve themselves and remain lower mid table and will need points to keep the teams below them at bay.

The mountain breeze cleared the path for Nikolaos Papadopoulos to hit the only goal of the game in the second half as the visiting Springvale White Eagles made the short trip to the George Andrews Reserve to defeat The Dandenong Thunder. The victory keeps the White Eagles firmly in second spot and in the path to promotion at this stage. As for the Thun-



Milhat Buyuk gets the ball away despite the desperate lunge by Jason Dimozantos

der they remain rooted to the bottom of the ladder and need to start to get a move on or division two SE soccer beckons in 2007.

The final Saturday game saw Langwarrin welcome the Port Melbourne Sharks to Lawton Reserve and sent them home with three goals bulging their net as Caleb Nichols scored two goals and Trent Fairclough scored in the home side's 3-0 victory. Goal-freak Caleb Nichols consistently seems to find a

way to find way to the net and this is a win, which keeps Langwarrin fifth and in amongst the action. Meanwhile Port is in mid table and while this result doesn't help them they want to keep seeking points to maintain their position.

Sunday also saw St Albans travel to the John Cain Reserve to take on Northcote City and the game saw the host head into the break leading one goal to nil on a goal by Trent Rixon, this was to be a false dawn for the struggling Northcote City side as two goals by Josip Loncaric in the second stanza saw the visiting side record a two 2-0 victory. Northcote remains second last and unless they can start to get results may well stay there. St Albans sit sixth and while a game behind fifth place and over three games behind the leaders need results to challenge the top and avoid the pack below them.

The final game saw North Coburg finally show a glimpse of their true potential as they welcomed Bentleigh Greens to Reddish Reserve and soundly dispatched them by four goals to one in a clinical display outlining the potential that exists at this club and a potential that belies their ladder position. The game was tied at one at the half time interval was taken over completely by the home side who in the end ran out easy winners. Grant Mussel, Steven Manchevski and Bosin Gorcevski were amongst the goals for the Home Side whilst Ahmet Gurbinar scored the lone Greens goal.

By Reuben Schembri

Springvale's Nebojsa Vukosavljevic hurdles a tackle



ROUND 12 FIXTURE

PORT MELBOURNE
V

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES
SS Anderson Reserve
Port Melb MEL: 56 K1
Friday 23rd June
KO 8.30pm

DANDENONG THUNDER
V

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX
George Andrews Reserve
Dandenong MEL: 90 D11
Saturday 24th June
KO 8.30pm

BRUNSWICK CITY
V

BENTLEIGH GREENS
Dunstan Reserve
B'wick East MEL: 29 B4
Saturday 24th June
KO 3pm

NTH GEELONG WARRIORS
V

ST ALBANS SAINTS
Elcho Park
Lara MEL: 608 D15
Saturday 24th June
KO 3pm

NTH COBURG UTD
V

WESTERN SUBURBS
Reddish Reserve
Glenroy MEL: 17 E4
Sunday 25th June
KO 3pm

NORTHCOTE CITY
V

LANGWARRIN
Reddish Reserve
John Cain Memorial Park
Sunday 25th June
KO 3pm

STATE ONE SENIORS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Springvale White Eagles SC	11	6	3	2	14	11	21	
North Geelong Warriors SC	10	5	4	1	25	14	19	
Western Suburbs SC	11	5	4	2	12	10	19	
Brunswick City SC	11	5	3	3	22	22	18	
Langwarrin SC	11	4	5	2	18	11	17	
St. Albans Saints SC	11	4	5	2	13	9	17	
Port Melbourne Sharks SC	11	3	4	4	16	18	13	
North Coburg United SC	10	3	3	4	17	12	12	
Altona East Phoenix SC	11	2	5	4	6	11	11	
Bentleigh Greens SC	11	2	4	5	14	16	10	
Northcote City SC	11	2	2	7	9	19	8	
Dandenong Thunder SC	11	2	2	7	8	21	8	

North Geelong Warriors 2
Western Suburbs 2 (HT: 2-1),

Brunswick City 1
(B Stafrace)
Altona East Phoenix 0 (HT: 1-0),

Dandenong Thunder 0
Springvale White Eagles 1
(N Papadopoulos) (HT: 0-0),

Langwarrin 3
(T Fairclough, C Nicholls 2)
Port Melbourne 0 (HT: 1-0),

Northcote City 1 (T Rixon) St.
Albans Saints 2 (J Loncaric 2)
(HT: 1-0),

North Coburg United 4
(G Mussel, B Gorcevski, S
Manchevski)
Bentleigh Greens 1
(A Gurbinar) (HT: 1-1)

STATE ONE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Western Suburbs SC	11	8	1	2	26	9	25	
Springvale White Eagles SC	11	7	3	1	29	14	24	
Langwarrin SC	10	6	3	1	28	15	21	
Dandenong Thunder SC	11	6	0	5	23	14	18	
Brunswick City SC	10	5	3	2	21	15	18	
Bentleigh Greens SC	10	4	2	4	18	19	14	
Northcote City SC	9	4	1	4	19	17	13	
Port Melbourne Sharks SC	10	3	1	6	18	24	10	
North Geelong Warriors SC	10	2	2	6	15	24	8	
St. Albans Saints SC	9	2	1	6	10	25	7	
Altona East Phoenix SC	11	1	3	7	10	25	6	
North Coburg United SC	8	2	0	6	8	24	6	

North Geelong 0
Western Suburbs 1,

Brunswick City 1
Altona East Phoenix 1,

Dandenong Thunder 0
Springvale 3,

Langwarrin 2
Port Melbourne 2,

Northcote City
St. Albans Saints ,

North Coburg United
Bentleigh Greens



STATE LEAGUES



Andy's Analysis – Round 11 Provisional League South East 1 Wrap Up

This weeks round of results provided some close encounters with 3 of 6 games ending in draws in the Provisional League 1 in the South East.

Doveton has maintained top spot and remain undefeated after defeating White Star 2-1 at Waratah Reserve. Goal-scorer for Doveton included a stunning double by Boris Mijatovic whilst the only strike from White Star was scored by Salih. The win took them 3 points clear of second placed Southern Suburbs, who were held by Riversdale 0-0. This could prove to be a crucial point for Riversdale in their quest to push up the ladder.

In other games, Brandon Park had a hard fought 3-2 win in a high scoring encounter at Freeway Reserve. With the game locked at 2-2 at half time, the winner came via a Kyriazis header from a corner to give Brandon Park maximum points. Other goalscorers included a John Waddell penalty, and a Kennedy strike midway through the 1st half. Jankovic and Dador were the goalscorers for Noble Park in a game which fluctuated at both ends. Brandon Park moves to 6th on 17 points whilst Noble Park remains on 7 points in second last place.

Monash University had a comfortable 0-3 win away to Carrum United. The loss continues the miserable start to the Carrum side's season, and at the halfway mark, seem to be the favourites for the drop. Mariadason the clear match winner in this game with a hatrick.

The final game of the round was a high scoring blockbuster between Warragul United and in form Springvale City. In a game which ended 3-3, the road trip to Warragul is proving to be a tough assignment for most teams. Goalscorers for the home side included McCluskey, Pitisano and Sheehan whilst Springvale's scorers were Rizvic and Damir with a double strike.

The league is starting to take shape, with Doveton on top with 29 points whilst Southern Suburbs chase them in second 3 points arrear. Croydon keep up the chase for 2nd spot 5 points behind Southern Subs, whilst White Star, Springvale and Brandon Park all remain in the hunt at the midway point. At the bottom, Rowville are starting to pull away from the bottom 2 whilst Riversdale, Noble Park and Carrum United are starting to fall behind.

Till next week

By Andrew Masholan

Top of the Table Clash Ends In a Stalemate

Southern Stars 0 Diamond Valley 0

Southern Stars and Diamond Valley turned on a game worthy of two promotion seeking teams at Ross Reserve on Saturday. Although there were no goals the spectators were entertained throughout the 90 minutes.

The action began right away with mark Court hitting the bar with a header from Marco Santille cross and Stars replying with a free-kick from Keith Moore

which was cleared by Cihan Kara. Play flowed from end to end. Ben Love and sefgi Murat were prominent from the Valley along with santille, while Moore and Val Mucaj were the driving force for the home side and provided the ammunition for frontrunners Vincent Bontemps and Terry Boi.

Both defences however were well up to the challenges and Glenn Davie and Stuart Laing with Kara kept the Valley's goal safe. At the other end Murat Caliskan organised his troops just as well.

Erol Ergin came into the game and Ben Love came close with a long range shot and Sinan Aydogan had his effort blocked by Laing. Such was the quality of the defences that neither Kosta Pajik for the home side nor Scott Augustine for Valley were extended in guarding their respective goals.

The game resumed with honours even and no goals and both sides continue with the same determination as before. However, Valley suffered a blow when Erol Ergin got his marching orders after 10 mins of the second period after an incident with more theatre than harm. Stars were quick to exploit the extra man and for a short spell had Valley under the hammer. Typical Valley grit brought them back into the game and Love's header from a cross by Ernie Simsek was cleared off the line with Pajik beaten. Alan Cameron fired one over from an angle after 65 mins, then Aydogan fired in a great shot which was brilliantly saved by Augustine. Boi came close for the Stars and Court had a chance for the Valley.

valley replaced cameron with Shaun Wilhelm and Adam Tavsanoglu came on for Santille as the visitors were determined to hold out for a draw. Stars' Caliskan made a valiant run to steal the points for Stars, but to no avail and the game ended all even.

A good result for valley, coach Binyazar pleased with the commitment of the team when down to ten men. Next week valley make a trip to Clifton Hill, graveyard of many a good side.

Southern stars reserves had their first win of the season defeating valley 3-0. All credit to them, but Valley followers were dismayed as the ill-disciplined rabble which sometimes masquerades as valley's reserves made a re-appearance. No commitment and no pride took centre stage in this appalling performance.

By Gordon Kirkwood

WAVERLEY WONDERS PAST KNOX

Waverley Wanderers 3 Knox City 1 (Half-time 2-0)

A depleted Knox City side put in a battling second half display to rattle the more fancied Waverley Wanderers at Carlson Reserve on Saturday, but they have to stop giving their opponents a two-goal lead before they start playing.

The home side was constantly first to the ball in the first half and was good value for their lead. The Knox back line played too deep and this gave the Waverley midfield a huge space from which to set up numerous attacks.

The opening goal came after 18 minutes. Knox was attacking and a Waverley defender appeared to hold Vernon back by the shirt on the edge of the penalty

area. However, the referee did not give the infringement and the ball was quickly transferred to the other end, where Waverley won a left wing corner, which Strapelias converted with a near post header.

Vernon forced Kourtis in the Waverley goal to make a full-length save from a fierce free kick, before feeble defending helped Waverley to their second goal. A poor ball gave Waverley possession and the ball was played to Strapelias, who easily brushed aside three ineffectual tackles to give Jorgensen no chance with a rasping shot.

Matters got even worse for Knox 30 seconds after the break when Strapelias broke down the right. His cross was covered by Jorgensen but Alinejad diverted the ball into his own net.

Instead of collapsing, the visitors staged a stirring come-back and forced Waverley on to the back foot for long periods. Kourtis was in action on a number of occasions and was finally beaten by a long-range effort from Ramsey Nasser as he cut inside his man and fired the ball into the far corner of the net.

Not long after, Ziada spurned a wonderful chance to get Knox right back into the match. A ball over the top found him in space with only Kourtis to beat but he missed the target as his shot skewed off his boot for a goal kick.

As Knox pushed forward, spaces at the back appeared but Waverley's finishing was less than clinical as they failed to hit the target on a number of occasions.

As the game ran its course, Kourtis made a point blank save from substitute O'Connor's close range header.

Waverley Wanderers: Kourtis, Nezos, Kapetanias, Roberts, Gidas (Wallace – 83rd), Zarokostas, Wilcox, Pantelidis (Rontoyannis – 35th), Modondo, Strapelias, Panaghis. Subs not used: Kennedy, Tsiotas.

Knox City: Jorgensen, Sobrio, Swami, Orlando, S. Nasser. Alinejad (O'Connor – 85th), Ziada, Skoullis (Harold – 62nd), Vernon, Roslan (Hammond – 45th), R. Nasser. Sub not used – Marshall.

By Bruce Darnell

BRUNSWICK REMAINS ON PROMOTION PATH

Brunswick City 1 East Altona 0

A healthy crowd of about 400 saw Brunswick dominate their rivals from the western suburbs. It is common knowledge that East Altona appear to be having some problems off the field with the defection of long time coach, Takis Svigos, leaving the club and taking over the reigns at Northcote City.

For the team it appears that some of the off field problems have diffused onto the field as the team struggled to come to terms with the Brunswick outfit. It only took the home team eight minutes to open the scoring when a lack of communication in the backline allowed Stafrace to pounce on the ball and send it into the net. Brunswick continued to dominate the game and got a lot of drive from the right hand side through Skeoch although Greechan and Stafrace looked threatening and were only foiled by some inaccuracy or by good

goalkeeping.

The second half was similar to the first with Con Vouloumanos on two separate occasions putting in great through balls for Greechan (53') and Skeoch (64') and both times Brunswick was denied. In the first instance Greechan's final shot was wide of the intended target but Skeoch's opportunity was well saved by the East Altona custodian. Other chances followed with Jackson's header from a Jim Vouloumanos cross just going over the crossbar (67'). Both teams were reduced to ten men in the 70' when Brunswick's George Danos retaliated after being tackled harshly by his direct opponent. The referee had no hesitation in sending off both players. Brunswick continued to surge forward in search of the goal that would put the game out o reach for the Phoenix but Stafrace shot wide in the 87'. The second goal appeared to be a forgone conclusion when Brunswick was awarded a penalty in the 89' for handball. After a good long throw in by Fagg and subsequent flick on (Gales) the ball was handled in the penalty area. Con Vouloumanos stepped up to take the penalty and to everyone's amazement sent his kick over the bar.

Late in injury time substitute Michael Tellis made a tantalising run from deep in his own half after dispossessing his opponent but he too shot just over the crossbar allowing the scoreline to stay respectable for the visitors in what really was a one sided game.

At the halfway mark of the season Brunswick finds itself in fourth position on 18 points with 5 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. The goal difference of 0 (22 for and 22 against) shows that Brunswick on average is scoring 2 goals per game, a statistic that coach George Karkaletsis would be satisfied with but not so with the fact that his team is also conceding 2 goals per game. In defence of his defensive line a large number of goals were conceded through goalkeeping errors a problem that appears to have been rectified with the appointment of Manny Pappas as the club's new number one custodian.

Goalscorers Stafrace 8'

Best: Jackson, Stafrace, J.Vouloumanos, Skeoch, Galea

Line up:

Pappas, Zach, Danos, J.Vouloumanos, Tsimuklis, Jackson (Fagg 84'), Galea, Skeoch, C.Vouloumanos, Greechan, Stafrace (M.Tellis 90')

Reserves: The reserves had a disappointing day when a game in which they were dominating all day slipped through their hands with a late equaliser by East Altona. Another defensive error the second in as many weeks cost Brunswick an extra two point and has now put a considerable amount of room between themselves and the leading pack of teams.

Brunswick scored in the 8th minute through a left foot cracker by Adam Franklin and continued to mount attacks that were thwarted by the keeper. In the 85' an errant free kick ricocheted in to the path of the East Altona striker whose shot beat Kosmopoulos.

Best: Dokolas, Sarpa, Chiccuti, Franklin, Kosmopoulos

By Elias Simopoulos

THIRDS AND MASTERS LEAGUES

THIRDS SOUTH

White Star Dandenong Berwick City, Riversdale Doveton, Sandringham City 3 Southern Suburbs 1, Springvale City 7 South Eastern United 6, Carrum Utd 1 Dandenong Thunder 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dandenong Thunder SC	9	8	0	1	51	14	24
Doveton SC	8	7	1	0	29	6	22
Springvale City SC	9	7	1	1	36	27	22
Berwick City SC	8	4	1	3	20	6	13
Sandringham City SC	8	4	1	3	31	20	13
Southern Suburbs SC	9	3	0	6	28	32	9
White Star Dandenong SC	8	2	1	6	29	33	7
South Eastern United	7	1	1	5	17	32	4
Riversdale	7	1	0	6	7	19	3
Carrum Utd	7	0	0	7	8	57	0

THIRDS SOUTH EAST

La Trobe University 2 3 Croydon City 2, Richmond Rangers 4 Caulfield Grammarians 2 1, Old Xaverians 4 Clayton 1, RMIT Redbacks 2 4 Brighton 4, Old Melbourne Moorgoolbark

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brighton SC	8	7	1	0	46	10	22
Moorgoolbark SC	8	7	0	1	42	11	21
Richmond Rangers SC	9	6	0	3	22	25	18
Old Melbourne SC	8	5	1	2	27	14	16
La Trobe University 2	9	3	2	4	23	23	11
Clayton SC	8	3	1	4	17	24	10
Croydon City	9	3	0	6	22	30	9
RMIT Redbacks 2	9	2	2	5	21	25	8
Caulfield Grammarians 2	9	2	1	6	13	32	7
Old Xaverians SC	9	1	0	8	15	54	5

THIRDS EAST

Doncaster Rovers Mitcham Utd, Monash Uni 0 Central Park Rangers 3, Waverley Wanderers 6 Oakleigh Cannons 1, Boroondara Lions South Yarra, Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Ashburton 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Waverley Wanderers SC	9	8	1	0	53	8	25
Doncaster Rovers SC	8	5	2	1	35	11	17
Oakleigh Cannons SC	7	5	1	1	35	13	16
Ashburton SC	8	6	0	3	21	17	15
South Yarra SC	8	5	0	3	15	22	15
Mitcham Utd	8	2	2	4	10	23	8
Boroondara Lions FC	7	2	1	4	12	15	7
Central Park Rangers SC	9	2	1	6	17	34	7
Monash Uni	9	2	1	6	8	42	7
Old Trinity Grammarians SC	9	0	1	8	7	30	1

THIRDS NORTH

University Of Melbourne 3 Thornbury Utd 2, Watsonia Heights 2 Moreland Utd 6, Preston Lions Moreland City, Reservoir Strikers La Trobe University, Moreland Wolves 0 Brunswick City 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moreland Utd	9	7	2	0	44	13	23
Reservoir Strikers SC	8	7	0	1	42	14	21
La Trobe University SC	7	6	1	0	32	9	19
Moreland City SC	8	5	1	2	28	17	16
Brunswick City SC	9	4	1	4	14	16	13
University Of Melbourne	9	3	1	5	16	33	10
Watsonia Heights SC	9	2	1	6	12	32	7
Preston Lions SC	8	2	0	6	19	31	6
Thornbury Utd	9	1	1	7	10	20	4
Moreland Wolves	8	1	0	7	9	42	3

THIRDS NORTH WEST

Melbourne University Rangers 0 Altona City 5, Westvale Hoppers Crossing, Westgate Care Park 6 Avondale Heights 1, Meadow Park 0 Essendon Utd 3, Reservoir Strikers 2, Brunswick Zebras

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Altona City SC	9	7	2	0	33	15	23
Westgate Care Park SC	9	6	2	1	32	10	20
Reservoir Strikers 2	8	3	4	1	23	17	13
Essendon United SC	8	4	1	3	16	15	13
Hoppers Crossing SC	8	4	0	4	29	23	12
Melbourne University Rangers	9	3	2	4	15	25	11
Brunswick Zebras SC	8	2	4	2	22	18	10
Westvale SC	8	2	0	6	13	33	8
Avondale Heights SC	8	1	2	5	13	28	5
Meadow Park SC	9	1	1	7	8	20	4

THIRDS METRO

Boroondara Lions Collingwood City, Melbourne University Rangers Whittlesea United, Clifton Hill Utd 0 Juventus Old Boys 3, Melbourne Lions 4 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Monash University St Kevins Old Boys

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Juventus Old Boys SC	8	7	1	0	34	7	22
Clifton Hill Utd	9	8	1	2	36	16	19
Melbourne Lions	9	8	0	3	28	20	18
Old Camberwell Grammar	8	5	1	2	20	13	18
Melbourne University Rangers	8	4	1	3	15	10	13
Collingwood City SC	8	4	1	3	18	23	13
St Kevins Old Boys	8	2	0	6	26	25	8
Monash University SC	8	1	1	6	12	15	4
Whittlesea United SC	7	1	0	6	7	35	3
Boroondara Lions FC	7	1	0	6	3	35	3

THIRDS CENTRAL

Caulfield Grammarians 1 Collingwood City 3, Central Park AC Melvern 2 Elwood City 1, RMIT Redbacks 0 Moreland City Reds 1, Monash University St Kevins Old Boys, University Of Melbourne North Caulfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monash University SC	8	6	0	2	17	7	18
Caulfield Grammarians SC	9	5	2	2	24	14	17
Collingwood City SC	8	5	1	2	22	8	16
St Kevins Old Boys	8	4	3	1	15	13	15
Central Park AC Melvern SC	9	3	4	2	15	12	13
Elwood City SC	9	3	2	4	13	17	11
RMIT Redbacks SC	9	3	2	4	11	19	11
Moreland City Reds	9	3	0	6	6	16	9
North Caulfield SC	8	2	0	6	47	25	6
University Of Melbourne	7	1	0	6	8	17	3

MASTERS SOUTH EAST

Seamans Blues 2 Brighton 1, BYE Ringwood City, Monash University 1 Doveton 6, BYE Juventus Old Boys 45, Glen Waverley 0 Endeavour Hills 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Doveton SC	7	6	0	1	28	10	18
Endeavour Hills SC	7	5	1	1	22	8	16
Ringwood City	7	4	2	1	18	9	14
Seamans Blues	7	4	1	2	18	10	13
Monash University	7	4	0	3	16	18	12
Glen Waverley	7	2	0	5	15	17	6
Brighton SC	7	1	0	6	7	27	3
BYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juventus Old Boys 45	7	0	0	7	5	30	0

MASTERS NORTH WEST

Melbourne Lions Bye, BYE Laverton Park, Hume Utd 0 Sunshine Blues 4, Wembley City 1 North Coburg Utd 4, Heidelberg Utd Black Youth Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunshine Blues	7	7	0	0	55	5	21
Hume Utd	6	5	0	1	28	11	15
Laverton Park	7	4	0	3	21	23	12
Heidelberg Utd Black	5	3	0	2	13	18	9
North Coburg Utd	4	2	0	2	12	7	6
Wembley City	7	1	1	5	16	36	4
Melbourne Lions	6	0	1	4	5	30	1
BYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Utd	5	0	0	5	8	28	0

MASTERS CENTRAL

Doncaster Rovers Bye, North Caulfield Bye, Uni Of Melbourne Bohemians 9 Ashburton 1, Beaumaris Whites South Yarra, Collingwood City Juventus Old Boys 35

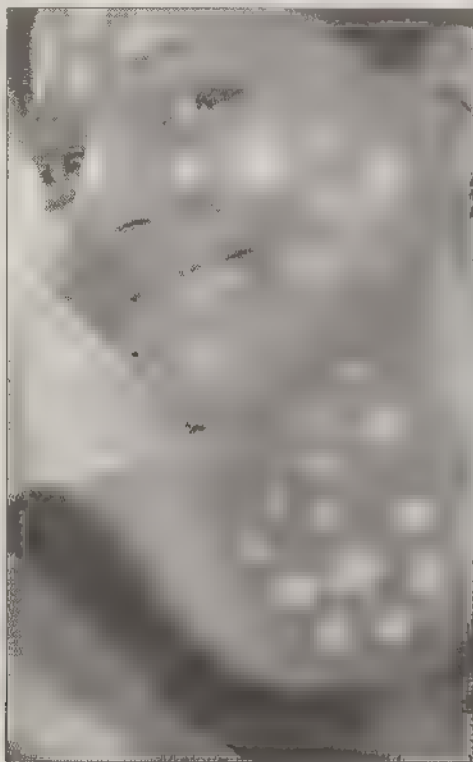
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Juventus Old Boys "35"	8	6	0	0	41	10	18
South Yarra SC	5	4	0	1	15	6	12
Collingwood City	5	3	1	1	27	8	11
Doncaster Rovers SC	6	3	1	2	20	11	14
Baumaris Whites	8	3	1	2	16	15	16
Uni Of Melbourne Bohemians	1	0	5	11	30	1	1
North Caulfield SC	5	0	1	4	7	24	1
Ashburton SC	5	0	0	5	8	40	0

BOO'S WORLD

A weekly look at the World Cup football featuring a Mark Barker

This is shaping up as the best World Cup in some time. Australia actually being in it helps. There have been plenty of long range goals and exciting finishes.

Italy v USA was the height of drama, Daniele De Rossi getting a solid elbow in on Brian McBride who bled like Ric Flair v Hulk Hogan at WCW Uncensored 1999. This came less than a minute after Cristian Zaccardo's own goal equaliser. The referee, a perhaps keen to make everyone aware there was a Uruguayan at this World Cup, went on to send off another



Some of Boo's work at the World Cup

two players. Group D is wide open now, unlike Group C which was widely considered THE group of death. The deaths came pretty swiftly in Group C. Cote d'Ivoire and Serbia and Montenegro were dispatched hastily, with the S&M boys being dealt with pretty brutally by the Argies, the kind of flogging that is usually only experienced by the Saudi Arabians.

England are playing pretty poorly but gaining results. The charismatic, talismanic and part-robotic striker Peter Crouch is leading the way for them whilst Steven Gerrard is eagerly anticipating the knock-out stages where his last minute 30 yard screamers will really come into their own.

Iran have showed the football world it has nothing to fear, their only threat remains trying to establish a nuclear arsenal. Angola play Iran with a chance to pip Mexico for second in Group D if they win. The football world fears Angola, more for the Ebola virus than their efforts on the park though.

Forget new ball technology, the greatest innovation in recent World Cups has been "World Cup Babes In Bodypant". Bodypainting team kits onto naked models is surely the greatest job anyone could have in the world, and you probably don't even need university qualifications.

I wonder if the noted drug dealer Ebenezer Goode, as sung about by The Shamen in 1992 ever played football. A bloke like him sounds like an asset to any squad. "But if you know Eezer he's a real crowd pleaser" certainly sounds promising, and "Backwards and then forwards, forwards and then backwards, Eezer is the geezer who loves to muscle in" hints that he may have been handy in a holding midfield role. "Though very much maligned and misunderstood" would suggest he would have been the target of the English tabloids.

Until next week,
FIRE UP AUSTRALIA!



GOAL! WEEKLY

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A QUESTION OF SPORT

- 1/ Who scored the winner for Brazil in its 1-0 win against Croatia?
- 2/ Do you know which Italian team he plays for?
- 3/ Who captained Brazil to World Cup success in Korea/Japan 2002?
- 4/ True or false? Ronaldo was top scorer at Korea/Japan with 8 goals?
- 5/ Which Brazilian holds the record for scoring in four successive World Cup finals?
- 6/ In which year did Brazil first win the World Cup?
- 7/ Who is the current coach of Brazil?
- 8/ Name the famous stadium in Rio which has been known to hold over 200,000 spectators?
- 9/ Which famous Brazilian team wears black and red hoops?
- 10/ What does "Jogo Bonito" mean?

ON THE BOX

The FFV Football Show

Channel 31

Wednesday, 8.30pm

Featuring Vodafone Cup highlights with Ross Aitais

The Green Gully Soccer Show

Channel 31

Saturdays, 10.30am

The World Game

SBS

Sundays, 2pm - 5.30pm

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Paul Trimoli

Monday Night Football

96.5 Inner FM

Mondays 8pm

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with John Caniglia

Saturday 3-4 pm

Hosted by Chris Vernuccio with

Paul Farnham and Matt Gribble

Featuring weekly updates on the 2006 World Cup

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

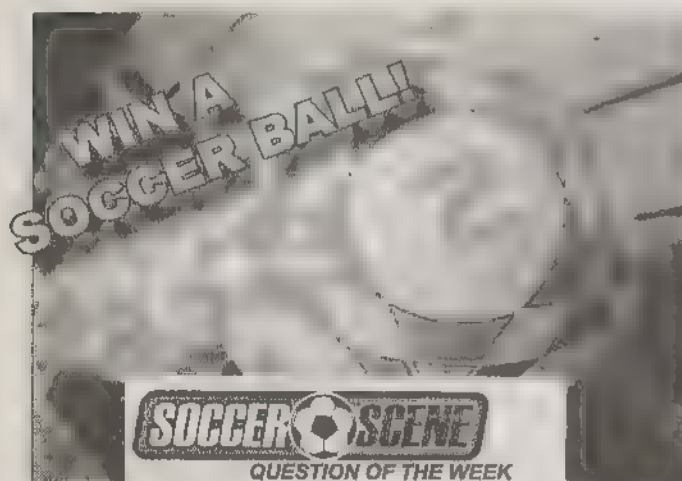
Daniel Alsop's wife wanted him locked up - she had had enough of the eejit. So she went to the police and told them: "Please Help, my husband has been hitting me." The Police gave sound advice: "Ma'am, don't worry. Just carry a goalpost in each hand - I guarantee he'll never hit you."

Q: What do you call a NZ Knights fan with many girlfriends? A: A Shepherd

Q: What have General Pinochet and Melbourne Victory have in common?
A: They both round people up into football stadiums and torture them.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Kaká
- 2 AC Milan
- 3 Adriano
- 4 True
- 5 Pele (58, 62, 66 & 70)
- 6 1954
- 7 Carlos Alberto Pereira
- 8 The Mimarica
- 9 Flamengo
- 10 The beautiful game



Thanks to Melbourne's newest soccer depot, Soccer Scene, Goal! Weekly will be giving away a Patrick soccer ball each week to the first correct entry of the Soccer Scene "Question of the Week."

This week's question is:
How many times have Brazil won the World Cup?

Send in your entry today to:
competition@goalweekly.com

GiveMeFootball

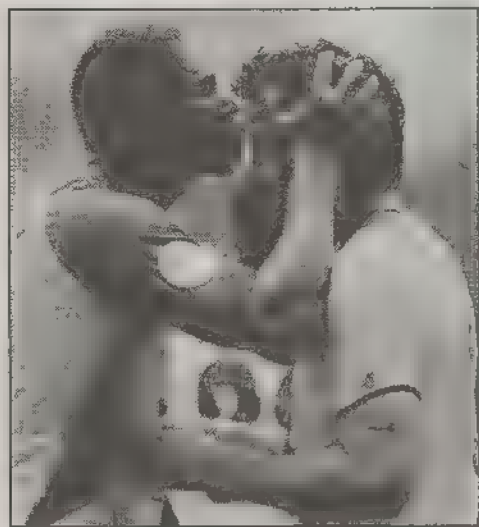
96.5 Inner FM Mondays 11pm

Vodafone Cup
Monday Night Football
with John Caniglia

2006 FIFA WORLD CUP

Germany

ECUADOR BREEZES INTO SECOND ROUND



Ecuador 3 - 0 Costa Rica

HAMBURG- For the first time ever, Ecuador advanced to the knockout rounds of the World Cup thanks to their 3-0 victory over Costa Rica in Group A.

The result also booked the passage of Germany to the Round of 16, while Costa Rica and Poland are now officially out of contention.

The Ecuadorians struck very quickly, putting the Costa Ricans into shell shock, with Carlos Tenorio grabbing his second goal of the tournament after just eight minutes.

1-0 Carlos Tenorio 8th minute

Tenorio got inside the Costa Rica defenders with a run up the middle and headed a perfect cross by Luis Valencia and the ball went right into the back of the net with José Porras helpless.

Four minutes later, in a bid to further extend their lead, Ecuador won a free kick in a dangerous spot and Edison Méndez put a nice shot on it, but the ball was right at Porras.

Costa Rica were lacking ideas after the goal, but Ronald Gómez made a nice pass up the middle looking for the run of Paulo Wanchope, but it was just overhit and allowed Ecuador goalkeeper Cristian Mora to gather.

Unimpressed by his side's attack, Costa Rica coach Alexandre Guimarães took midfielder Danny Fonseca out after 30 minutes, and replaced him with striker Álvaro Saborio.

Méndez, in the 35th minute, had another dangerous free kick effort, but this time the ball sailed just high over the bar from the left flank.

The Costa Ricans finally tested Mora five minutes after half-time, although it was only a distance shot by Mau-

ricio Solís that Mora handled with ease.

Saborio then missed a golden chance in the 42nd minute to equalize as a perfect cross to the far post from the left by Saborio found an unmarked Douglas Sequeira, but he hit his header wide.

Into injury time, a cross from the left found the run of Agustín Delgado, but he only scuffed a shot wide when he probably should have made it 2-0.

Valencia sent in dangerous crosses from the right side all day, and one found it's way to Delgado in the 53rd minute at the far post, but his volley effort was stopped by Porras.

2-0 Agustín Delgado 54th minute

But he wouldn't miss a minute later when he chested down a nice flick by Méndez and fired inside the near post of Porras, giving Ecuador a two-goal lead, and it looked like the goal that secured their progress.

Right on the hour mark, Gómez took the ball on the halfway line and made a sensational run through the Ecuador defense all the way into the area, but his shot was knocked away by Mora.

Substitute Iván Kaviedes thought he had made it 3-0 to Ecuador, but his goal was disallowed when he snuck in offside by about a half yard in the 70th minute.

Carlos Hernández, a known distance shot specialist for Costa Rica, tried his luck from 25 yards in the 73rd minute, but it was wide of the goalpost with Mora stretched out to cover it.

Ecuador were not intent on sitting on their lead, as

shown in the 79th minute when Kaviedes had a crack at goal after a nice run into the area, but a charging Porras cut down the angle and saved.

Kaviedes had another chance to extend the lead in the 84th minute when Méndez's right wing cross to the far post found the striker in space, but he blasted his header off the mark.

Costa Rica nearly were thrown a lifeline with three minutes to play when a ball laid off in the area was shot toward the back post by Saborio, but it came back off the crossbar.

3-0 Iván Kaviedes 90th minute + 2

Ecuador then capped off the match and sparked the celebrations when a beautiful cross from the right by Méndez found a charging Kaviedes who slotted home to set off jubilation from the fans in yellow.

Despite having already advanced, Germany and Ecuador will meet in a vital game to decide who wins the group. Ecuador can clinch first place in the group by earning a draw in the game as they have the superior goal differential.

By Stephen Sharpe

Germans Ponder On Second Round

BERLIN- Germany team manager and former international Oliver Bierhoff has stated that he would rather not meet England in the second round of the World Cup.

England meet Sweden on June 20, needing just a draw to finish top of Group B.

Germany, who defeated Costa Rica 4-2 and Poland 1-0 on an extra-time goal from Oliver Neuville, meet undefeated Ecuador earlier that afternoon, with the winner finishing top of Group A.

Germany and England, long-time rivals, could meet one another in the next round if one finishes first and the other second in their respective groups.

"I would prefer to play Sweden or Paraguay rather than England, who remain favourites to win Group B," Bierhoff said.

"But then again a big win early in the knockout stages could give us a major confidence booster for the remaining matches."

Responding to criticism that Germany has not played and defeated a top international opponent since, oddly



enough, England in October 2000, Bierhoff said "There is a lot of talk about us not having beaten a big nation for such a long time," said Bierhoff. "But we are convinced that we can defeat every team. Now that we have seen all teams that are in the tournament we are not scared of anyone."

By Francisco Barreto

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ecuador	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Germany	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

June 20	Ecuador		Germany
June 20	Poland		Costa Rica
June 15	Ecuador	3-0	Costa Rica
June 14	Germany	1-0	Poland
June 9	Poland	0-2	Ecuador
June 9	Germany	4-2	Costa Rica

England leaves it late but squeezes through



England celebrates after booking their place in the second round

England 2 - 0 Trinidad & Tobago

NUREMBERG- After 83 minutes of missed chances, England finally broke through and advanced to the Round of 16 with a 2-0 victory over Trinidad & Tobago in Nuremberg.

Left-back Jamie Carragher, starting in place of Gary Neville, had the first shot on goal in the game in the second minute when he received the ball from Steven Gerrard, but his left-footed shot failed to trouble Shaka Hislop.

Frank Lampard then forced Hislop into action four minutes later with a powerful drive from 25 yards that the West Ham goalkeeper parried right into the path of Michael Owen, but he didn't react quickly enough and shot wide when he should have made it 1-0.

After a corner kick by David Beckham in the 12th minute, England were just one touch away from scoring as the ball was played back into the area by Joe Cole, but no one was able to get on the end of it.

Cole then created Peter Crouch's first scoring oppor-

on a corner kick in the 36th minute as Yorke's effort played to the back post found the head of a flying Stern John, but his shot was wide with Paul Robinson having vacated his goal.

Another set piece provided the islanders a chance to threaten the goal as Yorke's free kick into the area was headed over the top by an unchallenged Kenwyne Jones.

Lampard should have done better in the 41st minute when he was unmarked in the center of the area after a pass from Owen near the byline, but he ballooned his shot over.

A minute later, Crouch also missed terribly in the area after Beckham's ball. Rather than control it, Crouch attempted a first-time shot that missed well wide.

But Trinidad were very nearly in the lead in the 45th minute as Robinson went out to challenge and left the goal open, but Stern John's header was cleared off the line by John Terry, preserving the lead and sparing big blushes for England.

Terry had to be alert again in the 53rd minute as Jones made a fine run into the area on a ball by Chris Birchall, but the Chelsea captain was able to cut it out just before the Southampton striker could control.

Owen should have scored in the 56th minute when he had a free header off of a Beckham free kick, but it missed just wide with the near side of the goal wide open.

Desperately needing an attacking boost, Sven-Göran Eriksson brought on Wayne Rooney in the 58th minute for Owen and midfielder Aaron Lennon replaced Carragher.

Crouch misfired again in the 69th minute as a cross by Lennon found the lanky striker at the far post, but it was over the bar and England's frustrations were elongated.

After having appeals for a handball in the area turned down, England missed another chance as Lampard had a shot in the area go high in the 75th minute.

Substitute Cornell Glen then put on a show as he took on two England defenders from the halfway line all the way to the edge of the area before he Ferdinand was able to touch the ball to Robinson.

Lampard seemed to be having troubles finishing as

he was played in nicely by Crouch from the top of the area, but his snapshot was nicely stopped by Hislop in the 78th minute.

The Chelsea midfielder then hit a turning shot just wide from inside the area just a minute later.

With 10 minutes to go, John did well to control a free kick off of his chest and he hit a turning shot weakly wide.

1-0 Peter Crouch 83rd minute

Finally, though, England found the breakthrough as a cross from the right by converted right-back Beckham found the tall forward at the far post and he rose above Brent Sancho to head inside the near post.

2-0 Steven Gerrard 90th minute + 1

Gerrard then put the game beyond doubt with a glorious left-footed strike that hooked inside Hislop's far post. Trinidad thought they had a goal back when John flicked in a Glen pass just in front of the six-yard box, but a dubious offside call cancelled it out.

By Stephen Sharpe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
England	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Sweden	2	1	1	0	1	0	6
T & T	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Paraguay	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

June 20	Paraguay		T & T
June 20	Sweden		England
June 15	Sweden	1-0	Paraguay
June 15	England	2-0	T & T
June 10	T & T	0-0	Sweden
June 10	England	1-0	Paraguay

Argentina Takes Serbs To School

GELSENKIRCHEN- Argentina put one foot into the Round of 16 on Friday as they scored early and never looked back in a 6-0 rout of Serbia & Montenegro in Group C play.

1-0 Maxi Rodríguez 6th minute

The Argentinians struck very quickly as Javier Saviola controlled on the left and hit a perfect pass into the area for the run of Maxi Rodríguez whose first time poke went right into the net.

Predrag Djordjevic tried to rally his team and get the Serbs on the board in the 10th minute when he turned to shoot from the top of the area, but it was wide.

Argentina then lost Luis González to a leg injury in the 17th minute forcing Esteban Cambiasso, who started against Côte d'Ivoire, to come on and he slotted into his normal holding slot.

For the first 28 minutes, Argentina mainly looked dead on set pieces, but finally Juan Román Riquelme received a ball in open play and fired a shot, but it sailed high.

2-0 Esteban Cambiasso 31st minute

Open play then saw Argentina put one foot in the Round of 16 after a brilliant one-two between Hernán Crespo and the substitute Cambiasso led to the latter receiving a cheeky backheel and firing high into the goal.

Crespo thought he had a third goal in the 37th minute when he had beaten the offside trap and raced in alone on goal, but the assistant dubiously raised the flag and Crespo earned a booking for dissent.

3-0 Maxi Rodríguez 41st minute

The third goal came after brilliance from Saviola, who stripped the ball from Mladen Krstajic, beat a defender into the area and crossed for Crespo who fanned, but Rodríguez tucked it in at the far post.

The Serbs came out really quickly in the second half



as captain Savo Milosevic looked dangerous from 20 yards, but his shot was just wide.

Crespo showed a bit of imagination when he made a nice cutback move in the 51st minute after running out of space on the left, creating a shooting lane but it was right at Dragoslav Jevric.

A nice counterattack by the Serbs sparked by Danijel

Ljuboja created their best scoring chance of the day in the 55th minute, but a header back across goal from Ljuboja's cross was just errant that enough that an open Milosevic couldn't get a head to it.

Frustration then set in on 66 minutes when Serbia & Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman was shown a straight red card by referee Roberto Rosetti when he

lunged into Javier Mascherano with both feet studs up.

Crespo likely should have won a penalty in the 74th minute when he went down in the area after another flowing move by Argentina, but the referee waved away the claims.

Shortly after, the much-heralded Lionel Messi came on for the first time in the World Cup, replacing two-goal scorer Rodríguez.

4-0 Hernán Crespo 78th minute

Messi then made his impact felt as he raced into the area on the left and sent a low cross to the far post for Crespo to run onto and touch into the net for Argentina's fourth of the match.

5-0 Carlos Tévez 84th minute

Another player in his World Cup debut, Carlos Tévez, brilliantly beat Goran Gavranic and Igor Duljaj on the left and then curled a shot nicely past Jevric inside the far post for a fifth.

Crespo then nearly had his second of the game in the 88th minute had it not been for a nice save by Jevric after a nice pass by Tévez.

6-0 Lionel Messi 88th minute

It then went beyond ridiculous with two minutes to play as Tévez played a beautiful ball through to the charging Messi and the youngster also got on the scoreboard as the ball went right through the legs of Jevric.

The Argentinians will advance to the next round if the Netherlands manage to get a point against Côte d'Ivoire later on Friday. Serbia & Montenegro would also be eliminated in that scenario.

By Stephen Sharpe

Holland Guarantees Place In Second Round



STUTTGART, Jun 16 (SW) - The Netherlands are through to the next round after a 2-1 win over Côte d'Ivoire, with first-half goals from Robin van Persie and Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Côte d'Ivoire had an opportunity in the fourth minute when Didier Drogba received a long pass, controlled it with his hand but was allowed to continue, but then found no teammate in front of the goal.

A minute later, the Dutch had their first chance when a cross from Mark van Bommel was only just missed by Ruud van Nistelrooy's head.

The Netherlands continued to dominate for a few minutes, but then it was Côte d'Ivoire's turn to spend some time on the Dutch half.

In the final minutes of regular time, the Netherlands seemed to be taking the initiative again and Van der Vaart found himself with a chance to shoot in the 89th minute, but couldn't use his force enough to threaten the keeper.

In the very last minute, the Ivorians got a free kick outside the area, as Cocu fouled Aruna Dindane, but the attempt went well over and wide. The final whistle sounded immediately and the Netherlands join Argentina in the next round.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Argentina	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Holland	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Ivory Coast	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Serbia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

June 21	Netherlands	Argentina
June 21	Ivory Coast	Serbia
June 16	Netherlands	Ivory Coast
June 16	Argentina	Serbia
June 10	Argentina	Ivory Coast
June 10	Netherlands	Serbia

Portugal goes through as Mexico slips against Angola

FRANKFURT, Jun 17 (SW) - Two second-half goals propelled Portugal to a 2-0 victory over Iran on Saturday, putting them into the Round of 16 of the World Cup and

sending Iran out of the tournament.

Portugal took the first shot in the sixth minute as Cristiano Ronaldo laid the ball off to Maniche who shot high, and the Dynamo Moscow midfielder then shot wide after Luis Figo played the ball to him off of a corner.

Defender Miguel then turned on the flair in the 10th minute when he made a fine run into the area on the right after working around two Iranian defenders, but he lost the ball and Iran cleared.

A free kick swung into the area from the right provided Iran their first shot in the 12th minute, but Javad Nekounam's glancing header went wide.

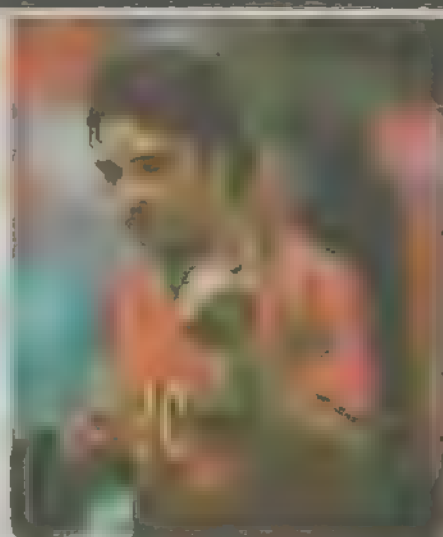
Figo then centered the ball into the area for Deco a minute later, but the playmaker's shot was tipped over the top by goalkeeper Ebrahim Mirzapour.

A nice buildup by Iran in the 15th minute saw Mehrzad Madanchi get on the end of a long ball at the edge of the penalty area and, despite controlling well, he couldn't get off much of a shot and the ball rolled through to Portugal goalkeeper Ricardo.

Figo's free kick from the right in the 16th minute found an advancing Maniche who fired a shot that looked like trouble, but it hit defender Rahman Rezaei and went out for a corner.

In the 29th minute, Ricardo Carvalho rose highest to get his head to a Figo corner kick, but the ball skipped wide of the far post. Five minutes later, another Figo corner was headed toward goal by Cristiano Ronaldo, but the ball is cleared.

A minute later, Ronaldo took a crack at goal from the edge of the penalty area that looked like it had Mirzapour in trouble, but the ball flew narrowly wide of the post.



With just a minute left to play in the first half, Miguel raced into the area again and shot from a tight angle, but after Mirzapour got a touch to it, the ball went straight across the face of goal and out for a corner.

A cross in the 54th minute by Nuno Valente toward the center of the area picked out striker Pauleta, but Portugal's all-time leading scorer could do nothing more than put it wide.

Portugal controlled the possession early in the second half, much like they did in the first, and Ronaldo came close to scoring again in the 55th minute as he hit a turning shot off his left-foot in the area, but Mirzapour did well to save at the near post.

1-0 Deco 63rd minute

But the Iberian nation finally got on the scoreboard with a cracking goal as Figo took the ball on the left, cut back

toward the middle and laid the ball off for Deco who hit a stinging drive from 25 yards beyond a rooted Mirzapour for a stunning opener.

Two minutes later, Ronaldo came close to a second when a free kick from just outside the area on the left ran just wide of the far post, but the pace of the ball was too quick for Pauleta to get a touch to it.

Iran substitute Rasoul Khaubi then came agonizingly close to an equalizer in the 69th minute as he latched onto a ball in the area behind the Portuguese defense, but his shot went across the face of goal and just barely went past the far post.

Nine minutes later, Iran came close again to levelling the match as Ferydoon Zandi's cross was headed toward goal by Vahid Hashemian, but Ricardo did well to make

the save.

But, shortly after, Yahya Golmohammadi brought Luis Figo down in the area earning a penalty for the Portuguese.

2-0 Cristiano Ronaldo 80th minute

And Ronaldo stepped up to the spot and sent Mirza pour the wrong way, all but sealing the match and sending Portugal through to the next round.

Ronaldo, who had come so close all night up until the penalty, came very close again with a free kick from the right side, but again the ball skipped wide of the post.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Portugal	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Mexico	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Angola	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Iran	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

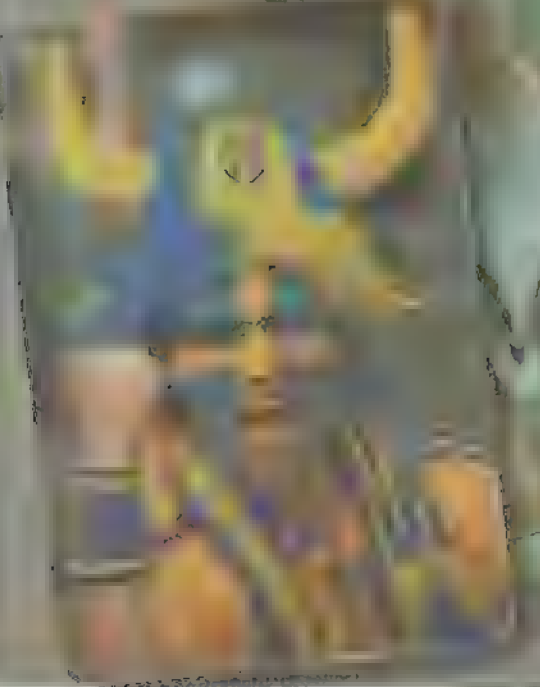
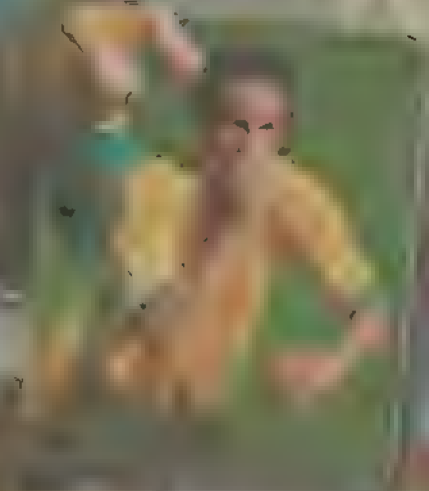
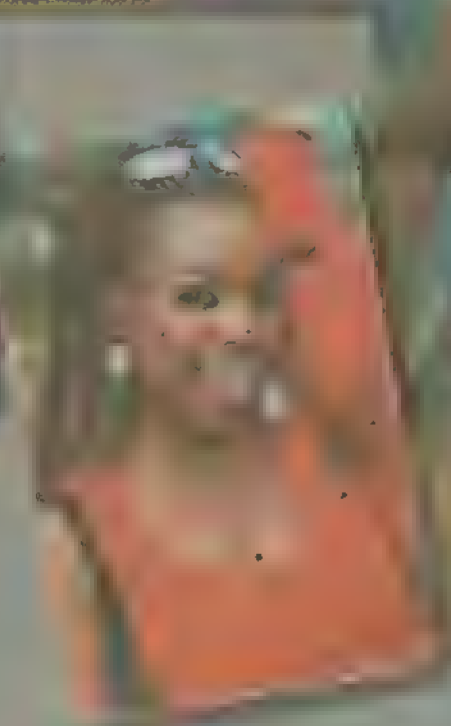
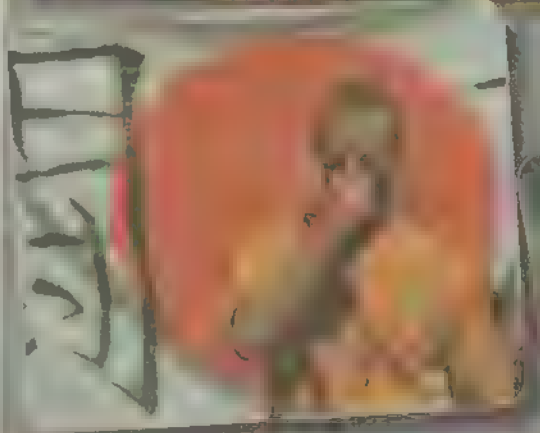
June 21	Portugal	Mexico
June 21	Iran	Angola
June 17	Portugal	Iran
June 16	Mexico	Angola
June 11	Angola	Portugal
June 11	Mexico	Iran

GOAL ALL WEEKLY

2006 FIFA WORLD CUP



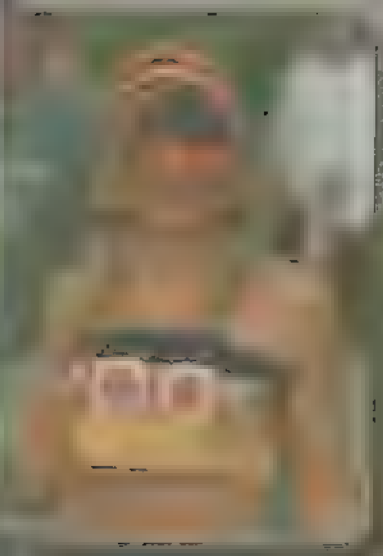
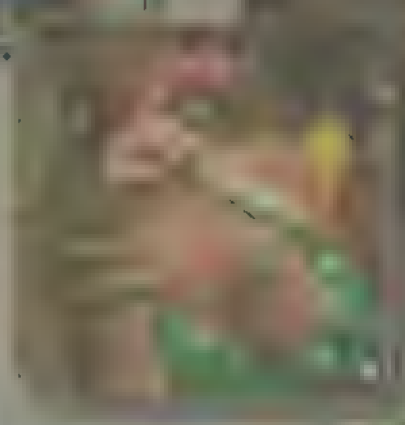
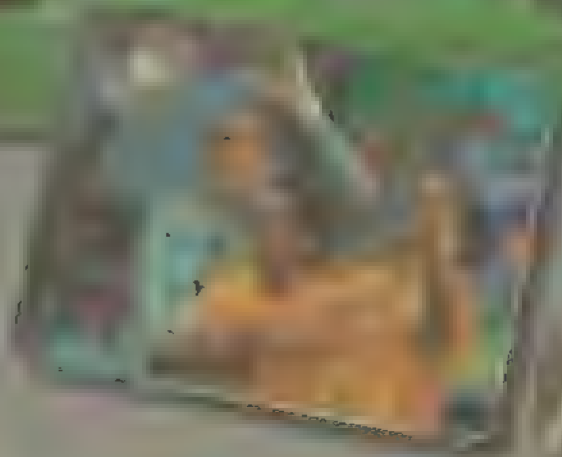
THE GREATS, THE
AND THE GLAMOR
THE GREATEST SHOW



WORLD CUP

THE AMERICAN
SPORTS

GOALS
AT
ON CANADI



Ghana Upsets Czech, USA Still In With Chance

GROUP
E

COLOGNE- After such an impressive performance in their opening match, the Czech Republic took a huge step back on Saturday after being beaten 2-0

by a superior Ghana side.

0-1 Asamoah Gyan 2nd minute

The Ghanaians got off to an absolutely flying start as Asamoah Gyan controlled well off his chest from a Stephen Appiah pass before firing a perfectly placed shot low beyond Petr Cech for Ghana's first-ever World Cup goal.

Four minutes later, the Czechs tried to come up with a quick response as defender Marek Jankulovski tried a shot from 25 yards, but the ball skipped wide of the post. Jaroslav Plasil then fired high from outside the area three minutes later.

Pavel Nedved then hit a thunderous drive from outside the area in the 12th minute that went right at Ghana goalkeeper Richard Kingson, the Czechs determined to get the goal back.

The theme of distance shots continued moments later on the Ghana end as Appiah tried his luck from far out, but his shot sliced away from the goal and went wide of Cech's post.

Sulley Ali Muntari twice tried to add to Ghana's lead as he attempted shots from similar distances outside the area, but both shots missed the target and failed to even bother Cech.

Karel Poborsky came the closest for the Czechs to equalizing as the midfielder got on the end of a ball played down the right, but his low shot goes just barely across the face of the far post.

Ghana turned right around on the end and Amoah had a chance to cause trouble for the Czechs when he turned and shot with his right boot, but the effort was



well high.

In the 39th minute, Appiah narrowly missed after some nice work by Gyan going down the right, but the shot was just centimeters wide of Cech's right-hand post from 27 yards, but the Ghanaians certainly weren't sitting on the one-goal lead.

A Poborsky cross in the 42nd minute caused trouble for Ghana as Tomas Rosicky ran to get on the end of it, but his shot only went wide of the goal.

Nedved headed home a cross just after the second-half restart as the Czechs looked to strike quickly, but the Juventus star had just barely drifted offside and it was

disallowed.

But, in the 52nd minute, Cech had to be alert to keep the match within reach for the Czechs as sprawled to stop a stinging shot from Gyan at the edge of the area. Jiri Stajner came on to replace Poborsky in the 57th minute and nearly had a hand in an equalizer as his low cross went all the way across the area untouched, but Plasil's shot was high.

But things soon got really bad for the Czechs as Tomas Ujfalusy hauled down Amoah in the area in the 65th minute, earning Ghana a penalty kick. Ujfalusy was sent off for the offense.

However, they were thrown a lifeline when Gyan's effort crashed against the post and no one was able to get on the rebound.

Amoah, the man who earned the spot kick, hit a wonderful shot from a tight angle in the 72nd minute, but Cech was able to swat it away. He then kept them in the game again a minute later as Muntari had a shot from inside the area stopped.

Michael Essien was the next to test Cech in the 78th minute after a beautiful, flowing buildup by Ghana, but the Chelsea keeper was equal to his shot as well.

A minute later, Gyan should have put the game away when Amoah played him through alone on Cech, but he shot right into the goalkeeper's legs.

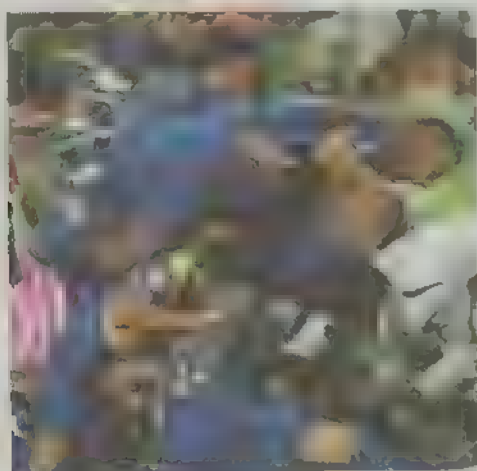
0-2 Sulley Ali Muntari 82nd minute

But Cech could save them no longer in the 82nd minute as Gyan played Muntari into the area on the right and the Udinese midfielder hit a stunning shot inside the near post to put the game away for Ghana.

Late on, Kingson made two fine saves to preserve the clean sheet on Ghana's first-ever World Cup win.

By Stephen Sharpe

9-Man USA holds Italian Stallions



KAISERSLAUTERN- The United States held Italy to a 1-1 draw, despite spending a large part of the match with nine men on the pitch. The Italians had a player sent off as well.

Five minutes had been played when Francesco Totti conceded the game's first yellow card, for a foul on Clint Dempsey.

In the opening phase, the Americans were the dominant side as Italy focused on the counter-attack.

The first bigger chance was for the Italians, with Cannavaro's header going just wide. However, three players turned out to have been off-side.

In the 15th minute, the USA got a free kick just outside the penalty area, but Brian McBride's effort hit the wall. The following corner was initially not dangerous, but eventually the ball ended up in front of Bobby Convey, who had an open chance but struck over the bar.

Three minutes later, a good American attack finished with Dempsey hitting a low diagonal shot just wide of the far post. 1-0 Alberto Gilardino 22nd minute

But in the 22nd minute, when the Italians finally seemed to recover from a bad phase, a free kick from Zaccardo was headed home by Alberto Gilardino for a 1-0 lead.

1-1 Cristian Zaccardo 28th minute

But the Americans did not need long to level the score. A right-wing free kick from Claudio Reyna was put past his own goalkeeper by defender Cristian Zaccardo for 1-1.

And things got worse for the Italians a minute later. AS Roma player Daniele De Rossi elbowed Brian McBride, and the referee correctly showed him the red card.

From here on, things calmed down as the Azzurri attempted to control the pace and end the American dominance, at least temporarily.

Just before half time, the situation changed as a foul from Pablo Mastroeni on Andrea Pirlo made referee Larionda decide to show his red card once again, to make it ten versus ten.

And two minutes into the second half, Eddie Pope got a second yellow card for a foul on Gilardino and left the Americans with only nine players on the pitch.

In the 52nd minute, Carlos Bocanegra almost scored an own goal but was fortunate as his header hit Kasey Keller's crossbar.

A few minutes later, Zambrotta came down the left wing and sent a pass into the penalty area, but Luca Toni came just a moment too late.

Three minutes after the hour mark, Landon Donovan stormed down the center and passed to Brian McBride, who then failed to shoot on goal and his effort went wide.

Substitute DaMarcus Beasley thought to have scored in the 65th minute, but his strike sailed past McBride who turned out to have been off-side. As McBride attempted to touch the ball, his off-side situation went from passive to active. Zambrotta caused danger in the American area four minutes later, sending a low curved strike just past the right post. Kasey Keller showed his value as goalkeeper when preventing Alessandro Del Piero's header from hitting the net in the 73rd minute.

As the final phase began, both teams seemed to be getting tired and the Italians, although on the attack, ran out of ideas. In the last minute of regular time, Gilardino tried a header but his effort went just wide of Keller's goal.

In added time, the ball hardly left the American half as the Italians hunted for a late winner, but the US defense and goalkeeper Keller would not allow it.

The final whistle sounded and the Americans were still alive in Group E, where all decisions will have to come on the final day.

By Jonathan Roorda

Japan and Play-out Stalemate



NUREMBERG - Desperately looking to improve on their opening matches, Japan and Croatia didn't do much in their department on a hot Sunday in Nuremberg as the two Group F rivals played to a 0-0 draw.

With both sides desperate to claim three points and boost their hopes of advancing from

this incredibly tough group, Japan started the brighter of the two sides putting enormous pressure on the Croatian defense, but they held firm and the Japanese couldn't get much in the way of scoring chances.

The Croats then tried to fling balls into the area and cause panic in the Japan defense, and in the 20th minute a free kick came in and Werder Bremen striker Ivan Klasnic just missed touching it home at full stretch.

But two minutes later, Croatia were awarded a penalty when Tsuneyasu Miyamoto took down striker Dado Prso in the area, and earned a booking that will see him miss the match against Brazil.

Japan, though, had goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi to thank for preserving the 0-0 scoreline when he reacted well to save Darijo Srna's effort low and to his left.

The Blue Samurai then took Kawaguchi's praise and gave them to their crossbar when it kept out a fine shot by midfielder Niko Kranjcar in the 28th minute.

In the 32nd minute, Croatia defender Robert Kovac picked up a yellow card for a foul on Atsushi Yanagisawa, a caution that will keep him from facing Australia.

The Croats nearly took the lead two minutes later, though, by freak luck when a seemingly normal backpass to Kawaguchi skipped up over his foot as he went to control, but the ball missed the target.

Six minutes into the second half, Japan should have taken the lead as a cross by Shunsuke Nakamura picked out

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Italy	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Czech	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Ghana	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
USA	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
June 22		Czech				Italy	
June 22		Ghana				USA	
June 17		Italy		1-1		USA	
June 17		Ghana		2-0		Italy	
June 12		Italy		2-0		Ghana	
June 12		USA		0-3		Czech	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Brazil	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
June 23		Croatia				Australia	
June 23		Japan				Brazil	
June 19		Brazil		2-0		Australia	
June 19		Croatia		0-0		Japan	
June 14		Brazil		1-0		Croatia	
June 12		Australia		3-1		Japan	

Yanagisawa at the far post, but his shot was awful and missed wide of the far post.

Quickly on the other end, Klasnic did well to control a ball eight yards from control under heavy pressure, but his shot bounced through and Kawaguchi was able to save.

In the 54th minute, Kranjcar found himself with another good chance to give Croatia the lead when a perfect cross from the left found him in the area, but his sliding shot went wide.

Nine minutes later, a free kick from right by Srna found the head of defender Josip Simunic in the area, but his effort skipped wide of the post and Croatia looked to be a bit frustrated at their inability to hit the back of the net.

In the 66th minute, Marko Babic broke down the center of the pitch and had support on either side of him but decided to take a shot from 20 yards that missed terribly

wide.

For the next 10 minutes, Croatia turned up the pressure as they desperately went in search of a go-ahead, and possibly winning, goal, but Japan actually were the next to look dangerous as substitute Keiji Tamada ran onto a ball in the area, but his cross was unable to find a teammate. Eight minutes from the end, substitute midfielder Luka Modric came in from the left and fired a shot that went just narrowly wide of the far post, and then Ivica Olmec missed with a weak header.

In the 89th minute, Japan defender Alessandro Santos made a fine move to create space in the area, but his shot looked more like a centering pass and it was cleared for a corner.

The two sides will need victories in their final games to have a chance to qualify for the knockout rounds.

2006 FIFA WORLD CUP

Germany

AHN SAVES THE DAY FOR SOUTH KOREA

FRANKFURT After he took the World Cup by storm in 2002, Ahn Jung-Hwan reappeared in Germany on Tuesday, scoring a brilliant winner in a 2-1 win against 10-man Togo in Frankfurt.

The opening phase of the game offered nothing to the fans as the teams failed to string passes together and looked disjointed and the Togolese resorted to the long ball to attempt to get something going offensively. Togo also played the Koreans very physical, especially when Park Ji Sung touched the ball in midfield, to try to keep them from flowing at all. Jean-Paul Abalo then got a booking for one such foul, followed quickly by one for Alaxys Romao in the 24th minute.

0-1 Mohammed Kader 31st minute
But then, Togo struck very quickly as a ball looped in was well-controlled by Mohammed Kader and he then hit a brilliant strike that tucked its way into the far corner past Lee Woon-Jae.

Korea, in a bid for an equalizer, created their best chance of the game at that point when Choi Jin-Cheul rose to hit a header off of a corner kick, but the ball was cleared after creating some danger.

Yao Junior Senaya then made a bid for another with a dangerous free kick from just outside the area, but Lee Woon-Jae, Korea's hero in 2002, managed to push the goal-bound shot over the bar.

With the introduction of Ahn Jung-Hwan at the interval, Korea immediately looked to press forward with more aplomb, and Park immediately tried to take the initiative, but fired over the bar from the top of the area.

Kader, just three minutes into the second half, was not shy about wanting to grab a second when he unleashed a fierce shot from the right side of the area, but Lee Woon-Jae was able to slap it away.

Three minutes later, Ahn had an ambitious effort from the edge of the area fly wide of the goal as he looked to continue his goal-scoring exploits from 2002.

The Togolese, though, were dealt a major blow in the



54th minute when Abalo was given a straight red card when he brought down Park in the midst of a goalscoring opportunity, and it then got much worse.

1-1 Lee Chun-Soo 54th minute

The resulting free kick from just outside the area by Lee Chun-Soo was nothing short of perfect as the ball eluded the wall and then Togo goalkeeper Kossi Agassa for the equalizer.

A cross from the left by Young-Pyo Lee nearly resulted in a lead for Korea, but Cho Jae-Jin was just a step late on his header and the danger was cleared.

But then, it was Togo who had a chance to go in front as ball into the Korea area was not dealt with properly, allowing Moustapha Salifou the chance to shoot uncontested, but he ballooned his shot high.

Cho then missed wide with a header from a right-channel cross in the 71st minute, but then Korea would take the lead through that man Ahn.

2-1 Ahn Jung-Hwan 72nd minute

Ahn, the man who beat Italy four years ago, took the ball at the top of the area, moved over to his right, and then fired a brilliant shot into the far corner with Agassa left helpless.

Lee Young-Pyo's bid for a third goal two minutes later was denied by a sliding Agassa as he kept his side in the game.

Kader, not one to give up easily, was given space about 30 yards from goal after a Korean giveaway, but fortunately for the Asians, the shot missed the target.

The Koreans then held the ball for much of the remainder of the game and will move on to their next game three points to the good.

By Stephen Sharpe

Silky Spain Thrashes Ukraine

LEIPZIG,- Spain jumped on Ukraine early and never let up, beating the 10-man debutants 4-0 in their opening Group H match at the Zentralstadion in Leipzig, backed by a David Villa double.

Ukraine had the first real chance of the game when a free kick swung in from the left by Ruslan Rotan was met by the head of Vladimir Yezersky, but the defender's effort was wide after five minutes.

Three minutes later, Luis Garcia was played into the area well, but his shot toward the near post missed the target with two Ukrainian defenders near.

In the 13th minute, a beautiful curling shot by Marcos Senna forced a nice save out of Olexander Shovkovsky, but the resulting corner would see Spain go in front 1-0 Xabi Alonso 13th minute.

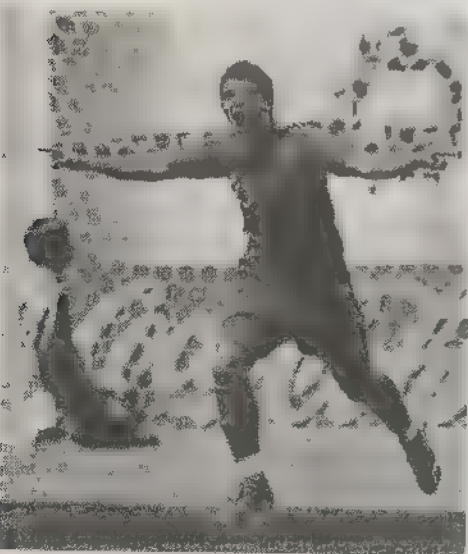
The inswinging corner toward the near post found the head of Liverpool playmaker Xabi Alonso, and the ball deflected past Shovkovsky into the net to give Spain an early lead and give Alonso his first goal for Spain 2-0 David Villa 16th minute.

Andriy Rusol was booked for a foul in a central position 25 yards from goal, and after Mariano Pernia ran by the ball, David Villa hit a perfect right-footed shot over the wall and past a helpless Shovkovsky.

The pace of the game then slowed as Ukraine got their feet underneath them on the World Cup stage, but Spain still had a considerable advantage in terms of possession.

In the 33rd minute, Ukraine finally managed to get Iker Casillas involved when Andriy Gysin fired in on goal from the left channel, but his effort lacked power and the Real Madrid goalkeeper easily gathered.

Villa raced into the area in the 44th minute in a bid for a second goal, but under pressure from a defender, the Valencia striker hit a tame shot that was deflected to Shovkovsky.



Two minutes into the second half, Spain won the first penalty of the World Cup after the referee determined that Vladislav Vashchuk fouled Torres in the area, earning the Ukrainian defender a straight red card.

3-0 David Villa 48th minute

Then Villa, the scorer of the second goal stepped up to the spot and beat Shovkovsky, who guessed right on the direction, but couldn't find a way to stop it.

Three minutes after that, Villa will feel he should have had the tournament's first hat-trick when the ball played into the area by Senna fell to him, but his shot was too weak and Shovkovsky saved.

On the hour mark, 10-man Ukraine just missed getting a goal back as striker Andriy Voronin hit a nice shot with the outside of his boot from 20 yards that went narrowly wide of Casillas' far post.

Substitute striker Raúl nearly added to his all-time scoring record in Spain in the 68th minute when he headed down a cross from the left, but his shot was right into the arms of Shovkovsky.

Serhiy Rebrov should have pulled one back in the 73rd minute when a perfect centering pass from Andriy Vorobey found him in the center of the area, but his first-time shot was well over the bar.

4-0 Fernando Torres 81st minute

Some brilliant play by Carles Puyol led to Spain's fourth when he played a ball for Raúl that he laid off for Torres, and El Niño fired hard past Shovkovsky for Spain's first goal from open play.

Substitute midfielder David Albelda made a bid for five when he took a crack at goal from 20 yards, but Shovkovsky made the save down to his left.

By Stephen Sharpe

France looking to bounce back

In a match between a France having trouble finding the route to goal and a Korea Republic outfit that toiled before overcoming Togo in their opener, the stakes could hardly be higher. As the second round of Group G matches gets under way, something's got to give at the Zentralstadion in Leipzig.

Germany 2006 must feel like déjà vu all over again for France. After encountering Switzerland home and away in qualifying for this 2006 FIFA World Cup™, the French faced their Alpine neighbours again in their first match of the finals, and for the third time in a row, the match ended in a draw. Having failed to find the net at Korea/Japan 2002, France have now gone four FIFA World Cup matches in a row without a goal.

Korea, on the other hand, have begun this FIFA World Cup in the same way that they finished the last on a winning note. In 2002, they reached the semi-finals under current Australia coach Guus Hiddink, and last Tuesday, the Taeguk Warriors began a new campaign by seeing off Togo 2-1. Yet while they took the three points, the Asian side put in an unconvincing display. They were a goal behind at the break, but the Africans then had a man sent off, and that swung the balance. That said, it still needed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Korea	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
France	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Togo	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
June 23		Togo				France	
June 23		Switzerland				Korea Rep	
June 19		Togo				Switzerland	
June 18		France				Korea Rep	
June 13		France		0-0		Switzerland	
June 13		Korea Rep		2-1		Togo	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Spain	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
France	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
June 23		Saudi Arabia				Spain	
June 23		Ukraine				Tunisia	
June 19		Spain				Tunisia	
June 19		Saudi Arabia				Ukraine	
June 14		Tunisia		2-2		Saudi Arabia	
June 14		Spain		4-0		Ukraine	

a flash of individual brilliance from Ahn Jung-Hwan to secure the win. Now with another Dutchman at the helm, former Netherlands and Rangers manager Dick Advocaat, Korea will undoubtedly have to strike a richer vein of form if they want to take points from the 1998 champions.

Past meetings

This will be the first time that the two countries have faced each other in FIFA World Cup competition, and only their third ever meeting. France have come out on top both times thus far. The first meeting was at the 2001 FIFA Confederations Cup, where the French cantered to a 5-0 win. Things were a lot closer the second time around, a few days before the start of Korea/Japan 2002. France won 3-2 on that occasion, but lost Zinedine Zidane to injury.

The duel

Lilian Thuram v Ahn Jung-Hwan: The French defender and Korean striker are both on the comeback trail. Thuram had announced his international retirement after UEFA EURO 2004, only to return for one last hurrah, and will

win his 116th cap against Korea. In doing so, he will equal the French record for international appearances held by fellow defender and 1998 team-mate Marcel Desailly.

Ahn, meanwhile, has had to fight his way back into the reckoning, after being dropped due to his poor form over the last two years. The Duisburg attacker rediscovered his touch in the Bundesliga towards the end of the 2005/06 season, however, and that trend continued with his match-winner in Korea's opening match against Togo.

What they're saying

Willy Sagnol, France defender: Our defeat against Senegal is still very fresh in the memory, but our current situation is far better than it was in 2002. We are unbeaten at the moment, and we know that we can rely on a solid defence, which is absolutely vital if you want to win the World Cup.

Ahn Jung-Hwan, Korea Republic forward: I know that we are the weaker of the two teams, but if we don't expect too much, we won't be as disappointed if we lose.

Tuesday 20 June

RISING STARS



You can take the boy out of Frankston, but you can never take Frankston out of the boy. Truer words were never said, according to Matthew Parks.

Despite leaving Frankston Pines for Hearts FC in Edinburgh, the young midfielder will never forget his roots. "I'll always love Frankston. It was my first senior team and they were really good to me there," he says of his former stomping ground.

But in saying that, don't even try and think that Matthew may consider returning, at least not yet. "I love it there too. Living in Edinburgh is great; it's a really nice place to live. But yeah I'd like to eventually move back there (to Australia). For now though, I enjoy it here."

And why shouldn't he? The game over there has the sort of attention media and fan wise which we in Australia can only dream about. Take for example; after the team's huge Scottish Cup victory when over 100,000 success-starved Hearts supporters lined the streets of Edinburgh to toast the Glasgow-defeating cup winners.

However, ever the professional, Parks hasn't let

the team's success go to his head. He is realistic about the team's prospects in this year's Scottish Premier League and Champions League. "We fell away at the end of last year (in the Premier League). We just need to work hard and we can achieve something special."

Work hard is just what they will do with Parks only a week away from flying back to Scotland to begin pre-season training. Although he may acknowledge the fact that he will require a miracle to be playing in the Champions League, it doesn't prevent him from sharing the excitement of the rest of the squad at Tynecastle. "It's the first time Hearts have ever made it to the Champions League, so yeah we're all really excited at the club. We have two qualifying games first before we may make it to the main draw".

He is slowly becoming more and more accustomed to the Scottish way of life, so much so that he watched Braveheart just a couple of weeks ago. The final verdict? "It was good, I actually hadn't seen it before then so it was inevitable I had to watch it some day," he claims. However, he hasn't become so attached to Scotland that he would swear his allegiance by the cross of St. Andrews and, thank the lord, he still refuses haggis. "My family I'm staying with over there keep trying to make me eat it but I won't go near the stuff."

So, luckily for Australia we may see Parks don the green and gold of the Socceroos yet (maybe even in our next World Cup win!), just as he did as an Under 17. "I played against teams like Mexico and Turkey, coming off the bench at about the 60th minute both times. It was awesome." "Playing for the Socceroos is one of my dreams, so hopefully in a few years time I might make the team."

By Jeremy O'Neill



Top: Matthew (right) playing against the Melbourne Knights before heading over to Scotland

mailbag@goalweekly.com

GOAL! WEEKLY MAILBAG

Dear Goal! Weekly,

As a Melbourne Victory supporter who attended each and every home game last season, I feel it my duty to inform the rest of the Victory diehards out there of the absence of our Kevin Muscat during the team's pre-season training. After seeing off my parents on their way to an overseas holiday, who should I see about to jet off to Germany but our captain and reigning Victory medallist.

I find this an absolute disgrace that Ernie Merrick and the bigwigs over at Victory headquarters allow their captain to trot off to the World Cup for a few weeks. What kind of message does this send out to the rest of this young and impressionable team, especially when the team has a poor season like that of the Victory's? He should be made to spend the World Cup down at the pub in the early hours of the morning just the same as every other football fan in Australia, not least because he's the skipper of our team and he should be preparing to lead his team of young players towards A-League success.

Finally, congratulations on the newspaper and keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,
John Stewart, Frankston

Dear Goal! Weekly,

Great work with the paper as it is nice to see the VPL make it into print rather than just reading about it on websites.

I would however like to see some more controversial stories make the paper especially things I would never be able to find on the FFV website.

Regards,
Gianni, Lalor.

Dear Goal Weekly,

I've really enjoyed watching the World Cup on SBS the last week or so and some of the shows it broadcasts before the main matches start. One of those shows has been "Song for the Socceroos". As much as it's all been well and good for the game blah blah blah, what I can't understand is some of the voting by the judges. Whilst some songs have been fair and received votes accordingly, why do the judges lie to the contestants when the songs are obviously crap. Everyone seems to get a 6, 7 or 8 from the panel. If the song is really bad (some of those ballads by the soccer mums were extremely painful) why don't the judges come out with it and tell the artist like it is? If your song is shite and is worth a "2" then so be it...and don't give up your night job mate.

Regards,
Rex, Abbotsford

Dear Goal Weekly,

Like everyone else I've been reading the daily papers this week with all the soccer stuff in them. Find it absolutely amazing how many overnight soccer experts have suddenly appeared from nowhere. I never thought I'd ever see the day. However, what's really bugging me, and I'd never thought I'd ever say this either, but what's happened to Peter Desira? Can you possibly shed some light on this matter and tell me why we haven't seen Peter write anything in the Herald-Sun since the World Cup started. I know people have got their differences of opinion on Peter, but I really hope he hasn't been shafted since the game went through the roof with all the coverage. All of a sudden, so many bodgy names we've never heard of before, who know nothing about the game. Shame on the powers that be if this is the case.

Regards,
Ivan, Pakenham

Congratulations to Ivan you are this week's winner of our letter of the week competition.

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Katsa's Korner

With George Katsamboukas



8/16 VPL
6/9 State 1

No Money, No Honey – No Pay, No Play!

Two sayings heard in various after dark places in Melbourne, they also apply to Victorian football. Players have managed to take a stranglehold on clubs with their excessive pay demands which is slowly but surely, sending a number of them broke.

It's a vicious cycle that goes something like this: Player A rates himself highly, so much so, that when he watches the English Premier League highlights program, he pictures himself strutting his stuff on the Melbourne football pitches in front of 50 people and the 4 passer bys that have taken their kids to the local park, which happens to be next door to the football ground. He really thinks that he is somebody special. Club A are very interested in player A, and to quote the Judge from Midnight Express, he is told, "the coach he like you Billy". Music to player A's ears, the mind begins to wander and becomes a human calculator. Throw in some thoughts of which other clubs he will tell his new potential club that are interested in him, ne-

gotiations then begin.

Venue for these negotiations can vary from a dingy dressing room, a store room converted into an office next to the dingy dressing rooms, or the up market clubs venue of choice are restaurants and café's. Enter the player, enter the club administrator, one starts high, the other starts low, a figure is soon arrived at.

Some of the worlds best negotiators can learn a thing or two from players on the art of successful negotiation, as they will use every trick in the book to make sure that they receive the money that they believe they deserve.

"I've played in high leagues: I was club best and fairest 3 years running, I'm fitter than I have ever been: You won't regret signing me: I will make a difference to the side" these all roll off the player's tongue at ease.

"Done deal player A", sign here, happy end for player A, the club administrators only enjoy temporary happiness, as they now have to ensure that they can raise enough money to meet not only player A's weekly payments, but also player B's, C's, D's and so on.

The end result for some clubs is a sad end - numbers do not add up, revenue forecast does not equal revenue received, players remain unpaid, no money, no honey – no pay, no play. These thoughts enter their minds and the team starts to slide down the ladder.

The above is nothing new to Victorian football and sadly continues year in, year out. Clubs need to learn to live within their means and only promise to pay players what they can afford to pay them; otherwise, they will cease to exist. Players need to realize that as individuals they do not necessarily attract more people to matches, that they are not Ronaldo, Beckham or Rooney. If they were then they wouldn't be playing here. Speaking of negotiating with players, it reminds me of a true story back in my club administration days.

Player X: "Katsa I'm happy that we have agreed to a figure and I will sign tonight."



According to player agent Kenny players need to "know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, know when to run"

Katsa: "That's great player X"

Player X: "Katsa I was thinking about taking out private health insurance"

Katsa: "Medibank Private and HBA have some great plans"

Player X: "How much do they cost per week Katsa"

Katsa: "About \$25 if you're single"

Player X: "I was hoping that the Club would cover this"

Katsa: "Would you also like the club to find you a wife, a car, look after your rent repayments, send someone to do your shopping and also wash your clothes each week?"

Believe it or not, there was a long pause at the other end of the phone, as Player X was thinking about which of the above he would ask for!

Another week without a full round of Vodafone Cup matches, the South Melbourne Vs Melbourne Knights catch up match was played, end result being a 7-0 victory to South Melbourne,

and Joe Biskic losing his wicket, retired hurt. Eight coaching changes in sixteen rounds; eight of the fourteen clubs have changed Coaches, will there be more? Simple answer? Yes there will be, there are a couple of Vodafone Cup coaches that have been sent out as night watchmen over the two week break, the Jury is ready to deliver its verdict when the games recommence. All roads lead to the Grange Reserve this Friday night, for the traditional derby between Kingston City and Oakleigh Cannons. Hopefully the game itself lives up to the hype from both sets of supporters over the last six months.

BREAKING NEWS:

Which Premier League club is in merger talks with a State League Division 1 club?

Stay tuned

From last week's edition:

Bet of the week, by the way when you read this the match would have been played, Stonington City to beat Knox City for a return of \$3.25.

If you don't see a Katsas Korner next week, it means that Stonington City provided a happy end, please forward all my mail to Mykonos.

After Knox saluted the judge with a 3-0 victory over Stonington City, the closest that I will come to Mykonos is looking at the photos of its beaches on my lounge room wall.

My assistants were also confident and had spent the week shopping for the trip, now I know the real meaning of no money, no honey!

Until next week.....

This Is Katsa, but not as you've known him. And when the Fat Lady sings, I hope that you're a winner!

Anyone For Futsal?



ADVERTORIAL

Futsal (the International 5-a-side Indoor Game) is the only version of indoor soccer sanctioned by the games world governing body FIFA, (Federation Internationale de Football Association). FIFA is responsible for organising the Futsal World Championship™, for which National teams from all around the world compete in. In fact, it is the futsal equivalent of its more illustrious outdoor tournament, the FIFA World Cup™.

In Australia futsal is governed by the FFA (Football

Federation of Australia) and is Australia's fastest growing sport.

The game is a great skill developer for people of all ages, especially youngsters, as futsal is played using a special low bounce ball, which, encourages players to develop skills instead of using the bounce of the ball to manipulate it. Those who play futsal improve their coordination, sharpen their reflexes and improve their decision making under pressure.

With a four second restart rule, small playing area and unlimited substitutions the game is designed as an excitingly fast game with non-stop action, as such the game significantly increases a players speed of play. Also playing within an area bounded by a touch line all around the court, further encourages players to keep the ball in play instead of relying on walls or nets, as often used in other versions of indoor soccer.

The basic principles like passing, shooting, and running into space are essential to master the game and should be emphasised early in a player's development. Due to the fact that fewer players take part in each game, each player gets more opportunities to be involved, thereby lessening any chance of them getting disinterested in contrast to outdoor 11 a side soccer.

The benefits of playing futsal as mentioned above together with the fact that the ages of 8 - 14 years is a crucial phase of a child's life, further validates the widespread belief that futsal is very effective in developing correct soccer techniques in children especially at a young age.

Great soccer players including Pele, Ronaldinho, Robinho, Ronaldo among many other international football superstars all grew up playing futsal on the many futsal courts found throughout Brazil and credit futsal for many of the skills they have perfected. So why not contact 'Futsal Super5s' today and give futsal a go?

By Marco Barisic

Matildas Lose To China

The Qantas Matildas have begun their two match tour against China with a narrow 2-1 loss in Shanghai (China) tonight.

The match started off very tight with both sides creating early chances but unable to find the back of the net. It took a while for the Qantas Matildas to settle in against a similar Chinese team to the one they hosted in Australia late last year.

The deadlock was broken in the 28th minute when a defensive error resulted in Australia conceding an own goal which gave China a 1-0 lead. The Qantas Matildas collected themselves after this lapse in concentration and created a number of opportunities as the match headed to half time, although China did have the bulk of possession throughout the half and defended their lead well.

The second half saw the Qantas Matildas equalise three minutes in when Jo Peters put her cross from the left in behind the Chinese Defence and Sarah Walsh was on hand to neatly finish past an advancing Chinese goalkeeper. The remainder of the second half was punctuated by a very high foul rate which did not allow the match to flow or reach any great heights. China took the lead again with a successful penalty in the 75th minute following a controversial foul by Australia in the penalty box. The Qantas Matildas fought hard for an equaliser but unfortunately was not forthcoming, with China holding on to record a narrow victory in the first of the two-match series.

After the match, Qantas Matildas coach Tom Sermanni was pleased with his teams performance despite the loss.

"In the first 30 minutes we were out played, but ironically within that period we had our best chance. "Once we settled down we played some good football and then we did create opportunities but couldn't capitalise.

"In the second half it was quite difficult for the players to keep their composure due to the high number of fouls that were being called, but that was also a good learning exercise for the team.

"I'm please we were competitive for the full 90 which means our physical preparation in on track and con-

sidering the Chinese national team has been in full time camp for the past 3 months there are alot of positives that I can take out of this match," concluded Sermanni.

The Qantas Matildas will play one more fixture against China in Shanghai on Monday 19 June before returning home and preparing for the AFC Women's Asian Cup which kicks off in Adelaide on 16 July. It will be the first time Australia have hosted an Asian tournament since joining the AFC on January 1 this year, with the tournament doubling as qualifiers for next year's FIFA Women's World Cup.

Match Details

Australia 1 (Sarah Walsh 48')

China 2 (own goal 28', Pu Wei 75' (pen))

Venue: Shanghai FA Training Centre - China

Qantas Matildas

Melissa Barbieri (gk), Heather Garriock, Di Alagich (Rhian Davies 69'), Cheryl Salisbury (c), Kurla Reuter, Lana Harch (Joanne Burgess 56'), Jo Peters, Sally Shipard, Alicia Ferguson, Kate Gill (Lisa De Vanna 66'), Sarah Walsh (Carlin Munoz 59'). Substitutes Not Used: Lydia Williams (gk), Kate McShea, Clare Polkinghorne, Lauren Colthorpe, Kylie Ledbrook.

Next Fixture

Monday 19 June 2006: Qantas Matildas v China, Shanghai Kick-Off 1600 (china local time)



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STATE LEAGUE ONE



As division one reaches the half way point it is a good idea to take a look at all twelve teams and to see just where they are and where they want to be and what they have to do to be where they want to be.

It isn't any coincidence that all these players play for the top five teams and that is part of the reason why you are at the top end because you have people who consistently deliver. None of these lads would be out of place in the Vodafone Cup and it will be hoped that their goals will propel their team there in 2007.

1. Springvale White Eagles

21 Points (Top scorer Papadopoulos 5 Goals)

The White eagles promoted last season as division 2SE champions came into this season with high expectations of doing something in 2006. They have over the past few seasons developed their facility in Keysborough into a wonderful stadium with floodlights and a delight to visit. They have also built a squad which is able to deal with most problems thrown at them, they have been consistently in the top two and I expect them to be no lower than third or fourth by seasons end and are as good a chance as any for one of the 2 promotion spots.

2. North Geelong

19 Points (top scorer Tony Saric 8 goals)

With a game in hand on the other teams around it the Warriors sit in a place I fully expected them to be. Their squad easily won division 2NW last season and they have assembled a squad which mixes the experience of the Cervinski brothers and the Saric Brothers with many young exciting players to end up with a squad which fears no one and commands great respect from all opponents. I said in round one this was my pick as champions and 11 weeks later I still think that to be the case.

3. Western Suburbs

19 Points (Top scorer Leander Rizzo 3 goals)

The absolutely surprise packet of the season and an absolute breath of fresh air this season, traditionally this is a team with limited resources but this season they have excelled assembling a coach and a squad the equal of any of the top sides in the league and they have molded them into a unit which is competitive against everyone. Everyone down at the Ralph Reserve should take a bow as to the success this club enjoys and I can see this team right in the mix for the top two although they may just fall short this season 2007 may well be their year.

4. Brunswick City

18 Points (Top scorer Christopher Greechan 8 Goals)

This team has probably been a goalkeeper short of a top two team and at times this has cost them. An attacking team with goals in them from a lot of players they produced a coup in signing exciting youngster Christopher Greechan who hasn't disappointed. A team who will be well amongst it when the seasons done but one which may fall just short again.

5. Langwarrin

17 Points (Top Scorer Caleb Nichols 7 Goals)

Langwarrin are a consistently hard team to play but a frustrating one at the same time, too many draws have been their undoing and this is why they are fifth and not higher up the ladder. They seem to struggle to take the next step this side. It took quite a few years where they were the nearly team of division two until they got into the division some few seasons ago now they seem to sit consistently in fourth to seventh position without really going up or down.

6. St Albans

17 Points (Top Scorer Josip Loncaric 4 Goals)

It's a testament to their committee and the work of their players and coaching staff that this club is where it is. Everyone down at the Churchill reserve was devastated when on the final day of the season they were relegated as the Sunshine Georges survived in the VPL. This saw the virtual disintegration of their senior squad as those who could move to other VPL clubs to continue their career in the top flight. A virtual new squad was bought in and even as the season began they were still tweaking their squad and tinkering. That they have been competitive is a testament to the work done there. The need a consistent goal scorer if they are to make the next step. I see them surviving comfortably this season and being a big threat in 2007.

7. Port Melbourne

13 Points (Top Scorer Ihor Khrapko 4 goals)

A team which probably expected to be a little higher up then they are this is the second season in division one for the sharks and they seem to have settled on mid table status and lack the consistency to go any further. I think this is about as high as they will get and will need to maintain a level of consistency to avoid teams below them that will no doubt make their charge.

8. North Coburg

12 Points (Top Scorer Grant Mussel 4 Goals)

The sleeping giant of the bottom six teams and one who had an absolutely horrible start and were bottom after the first half a dozen games and looking down the barrel. Whatever they did to arrest the slide worked a treat and now they sit as probably the sleeping giant of the bottom six and the team I think will be able to best move into the top six. I think they will keep rising and teams just above them should watch out.

9. Altona East

11 Points (Top Scorer Taxiarchis Apostolakis 2 Goals)

The top goal scorer on two goals says it all a team which has just about been impotent this season scoring just six times, it's a testament they are where they are given this miserly return. If things don't improve however the bottom three beckons for this team and they will be in the relegation dogfight for the remainder of the season, should just survive though or finish in the third bottom playoff spot.

10. Bentleigh Greens

10 Points (Top Scorer Christopher Driver 4 Goals)

The greens were gone at this time last season in the VPL and at this stage having rebuilt their squad occupy the playoff spot in division one. They have the potential to peek themselves out of the bottom three but will need to show more fight and turn narrow losses into draws and draws into wins at some stage if they are to rise up. They always give a good account of themselves but doing this alone and not getting a result is not going to save them. I see them finishing eighth to tenth at best.

11. Northcote City

8 Points (Top Scorer 2 Abdul Rauf Samad & Trent Rixon 3 Goals)

They have scored just nine goals all season and the top scorers have scored three each and another player two which means four players have found the net for the side from the John Cain reserve. This basically equals relegation and you guessed it they'd be gone if they stay in eleventh. It is hard to see them lifting themselves too far out of the predicament they are in and I think they will finish somewhere in the bottom three.

12. Dandenong Thunder

8 Points (Top Scorer Hugo Reyes 2 Goals)

When our top scorer is a defender your in a world of trouble and whatever has happened down in Dandenong they need to throw the book away and rewrite it and fast. Their home ground was probably one of the hardest to visit in the entire league in the past three or four years but this season teams have been going there and winning regularly and away from home they haven't been any better. They have also leaked goals like a sieve with holes 2 miles wide.

MID-SEASON REVIEW



Can they get off the bottom, I think the simple answer may be no.

My predictions for the rest of the season

Champions: North Geelong
Runners up: Springvale White eagles
Tenth (Playoff Spot): Altona East
Relegated: Northcote and Dandenong

By Reuben Schembri

State One Leading Goal Scorers

Chris Greechan 8
Tony Saric 8
Caleb Nichols 7
Adrian Cervinski 6
Nik Papadopoulos 5

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MILO

JUNIOR LEAGUES



MILO Boys S/E 16 Super League. Round 9: Whitehorse Oakleigh, Glen Waverley 1 Bentleigh Greens 1, South Melbourne 12 Doncaster Rovers JSC 0, Knox City 1, Bulleen 0, Southern Stars 0, South Eastern Piranhas 0

M.O. Boys S/E 15 Super League. Round 9: Noble Park Bye, Whitehorse 3 Beaumaris 0, Gippsland Soccer League 1 Kingston City 2, South Melbourne 1 Doncaster Rovers JSC 1, Box Hill Inter 3 Bulleen 4

M.O. Boys S/E 14 Super League. Round 9: Whitehorse 2 Beaumaris 1, Manningham Chelsea, South Melbourne 2 Endeavour Utd 0, Knox City 1 Bulleen 1, Doncaster Rovers JSC 0 Box Hill Inter 2

M.O. Boys S/E 13 Super League. Round 9: Gippsland Soccer League 2 Beaumaris 1, Nunawading City 1 Knox City 3, Mornington 1 Monash City 2, Box Hill Inter 2, Bulleen 1, Dandenong City 7 Baxter 1

M.O. Boys N/W 16 Super League. Round 9: Preston Lions Bye, Whittlesea Stallions 4 Essendon Royals 2, Sydenham Park 3 Brimbank 0, Hoppers Crossing 1 Green Gully 3, North City Lions 1 Melbourne Knights 8

M.O. Boys N/W 15 Super League. Round 9: Melbourne Knights 3 Essendon Royals 2, Epping City 0 Brimbank 2, Moreland United 1 Altona East 2, Fawkner 1 Green Gully 1, North Coburg Utd 0 Kallor Park 1

M.O. Boys N/W 14 Super League. Round 9: Preston Lions 0 Albion-Wodonga 7, Melbourne Knights 4 Brimbank 0, Fawkner 1 Bendigo Amateur Soccer League, Williamstown 1 Green Gully 1, North Coburg Utd 0 Kallor Park 2

M.O. Boys N/W 13 Super League. Round 9: Melbourne Knights 3 Essendon Royals 2, Epping City 0 Altona Magic 1, Fawkner 2 Bundoora 0, Hoppers Crossing JSC 0 Green Gully 2, Preston Lions 1 Kallor Park 5

M.O. Boys Metro 18 Blue. Round 9: Port Melbourne JSC, Bye, Brunswick City 4 Oakleigh 1, Bulleen 0, Laker United 0, Doncaster Rovers JSC 16 Altona Magic 0, Heidelberg Utd, Green Gully

M.O. Boys Metro 18 Orange. Round 9: Seaford United JSC Bye, Sherbrooke Rangers 3 Glen Waverley 2, Mornington Springvale City, Mooroolbark 0 Langwarrin 9, Rosebud 1 Brighton JSC 7

M.O. Boys Metro 18 Purple. Round 9: Bundoora Bye, St Albans Bye, Northcote City 4 Gisborne 0, Brimbank 3 Essendon Royals 0, Kallor Park 11 Preston Lions 0

M.O. Boys Metro 18 Yellow. Round 9: Bye Brandon Park, Mornington Bye, Brighton JSC 0 Eastern Lions 2, Berwick City 0 Glen Elira 0, Berwick Kings Westvale

M.O. Boys South 16 A. Round 9: Baxter 0 Beaumaris 21 Brighton JSC 3 Bentleigh Greens 3, Doveton 0 Langwarrin 1, Berwick City 4 Springvale City 2, Dandenong City 0 Sandringham City 2

M.O. Boys South 16 B. Round 9: Sandringham City B Bye, Rowville Eagles 0 Chelsea 2, Doveton 3 Peninsula 3, Carrum Utd 0 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Beaumaris 1 Sandringham City 4

M.O. Boys South 15 A. Round 9: Mornington Granbourne Comets, Berwick City 0 Springvale White Eagles 0, Langwarrin 5 Hampton Park Utd 0, Dandenong Thunder 1 Brighton JSC 0, Seaford Utd 0 Sandringham City 8

M.O. Boys South 15 B. Round 9: Mornington A 0 Dandenong City 11, Brighton JSC 0 Bentleigh Greens 7, Endeavour United 1 Langwarrin 0, Rosebud 2 Berwick City 4, Beaumaris 4 Baxter 1

M.O. Boys South 14 A. Round 9: Baxter 0 Lyndale Utd 6, Mornington 2 Springvale White Eagles 4, Langwarrin 6 Hampton Park Utd 0, Berwick City 2 Brighton 3, Beaumaris 1 Sandringham City 7

M.O. Boys South 14 B. Round 9: White Star Dandenong Bye, Brighton JSC 3 Cranbourne Comets 3, Frankston Pines 11 Langwarrin 1, Mornington 1 Peninsula 2 Dandenong City 4 Sandringham City 0

M.O. Boys South 13 A. Round 9: Endeavour Utd 0 Mornington 1, Doveton 1 Bentleigh Greens 5, Langwarrin Hampton Park Utd, Berwick City 3 Brighton JSC 0, Frankston Pines, Dandenong Thunder

M.O. Boys South 13 B. Round 9: Seaford Utd Lyndale Utd, Phillip Island 0 Berwick City 8, Beaumaris 6 Hampton Park Utd 0, Carrum Utd 3 Brighton JSC 1, East Bentleigh Sandringham City

M.O. Boys South 13 C. Round 9: Sandringham City Bye, Baxter 0 Beaumaris 4, Brighton 2 Springvale White Eagles 3, Seaford Utd 4 Langwarrin 5, Berwick City 0 Cranbourne Comets 3

M.O. Boys South 12 A. Round 9: Mornington 1 Beaumaris 5, Brighton JSC 0 Bentleigh Greens 1, Langwarrin 3 Hampton Park Utd 1, Berwick City 2 Peninsula 1, Dandenong City 2 Sandringham City 2

M.O. Boys South 12 B. Round 9: Mornington Bye, Cranbourne Comets 1 Berwick City 5 Chelsea 0 Hampton 2 Brighton 1, Seaford Utd 0 Sandringham City 2

M.O. Boys South 12 C. Round 9: Langwarrin Bye, Sandringham City Mornington, Seaford Utd Bye, Rosebud 10 Brighton JSC 0, Beaumaris 3 Baxter 4

M.O. Boys South 12 D. Round 9: Bentleigh Greens Bye, Keysborough JSC, Endeavour Hills 2 Lyndale Utd 0, Peninsula 0 Harefield Hummies 2 Hampton 5 Casey Panthers 0

M.O. Boys South 11 Kangaroos Green. Round 9: Brighton Bye, Heatherdon 1 Bentleigh Greens 5, Langwarrin 3 Berwick City 4, Cranbourne Comets 1 Hampton 4 Dandenong City 2 Sandringham City 2

M.O. Boys South 11 Kangaroos Purple. Round 9: Seaford Utd Bye, Sandringham City 5 Springvale White Eagles 1, Mornington Langwarrin, Rosebud 0 Dandenong Thunder 11 Peninsula 0 Noble Park 7

M.O. Boys South 11 Joys Blue. Round 9: Doveton Bye, Baxter 1 Beaumaris 2, Brighton 1 Berwick City 8, Carrum Utd 0 Endeavour Utd 3 Dandenong City 0 Sandringham City 5

M.O. Boys South 11 Joys Red. Round 9: Sandringham

City 3 Hampton 0, Brighton 1 Mornington 0, Langwarrin Hampton Park Utd, Berwick City 3 Brighton A 0, Beaumaris Keysborough

MILO Boys East 16 A. Round 9: Nunawading City Bye, Bulleen 2 Glen Waverley 1, Doncaster Rovers JSC 0, Riversdale Raiders 4, East Bentleigh 1 Manningham 5, Sherbrooke Rangers 2 Ashburton 1

MILO Boys East 16 B. Round 9: Bye Bye, North Caulfield 0 Richmond 1, Boroondara Lions 3, Boronia 3, Glen Elira 3, Mooroolbark 10, Eastern Lions Manningham

MILO Boys East 15 A. Round 9: Bye South Springvale, North Caulfield 2 Richmond 0, Bulleen 5 Knox City 0, South Melbourne 1 Doncaster Rovers JSC 1, Boronia 0 Manningham 3

MILO Boys East 15 B. Round 9: North Caulfield 2 Nunawading City 8, Eastern Lions 5 Boronia 0, Doncaster Rovers JSC 4 Glen Waverley 5, Westvale 2 East Bentleigh 1, Croydon City Arrows JSC Brandon Park

MILO Boys East 15 C. Round 9: Boroondara Lions Bye, Sherbrooke Rangers 1 Manningham 2, Mooroolbark 4 Ringwood City 1, Port Melbourne JSC 3 Caulfield Utd 2 Richmond 0 Ashburton 4

MILO Boys East 14 A. Round 9: Glen Waverley Bye, Caulfield Utd 0 Richmond 7, Bulleen 1 Kingston City 3, Eastern Lions 2 Riversdale Raiders 1, Sherbrooke Rangers 0 Nunawading City 2

MILO Boys East 14 B. Round 9: North Caulfield Oakleigh 1, Whitehorse Springvale City, Bulleen 1 Melbourne Utd 0, Glen Elira 0 Manningham 4, Southern Stars 11 Clayton 0

MILO Boys East 14 C. Round 9: Mooroolbark 3 Beaumaris 0 Nunawading City 8 Knox City 1, Berwick City 0 Doncaster Rovers JSC 2, Stonnington City 3 Brighton JSC 1, Glen Waverley 1 Croydon City Arrows JSC 1

MILO Boys East 14 D. Round 9: Hampton 1 Ashburton 4, Manningham 8 Eastern Lions 0, Doncaster Rovers JSC 1 Chelsea 7, Boronia 9 Glen Elira 0, East Bentleigh Ringwood City

MILO Boys East 13 A. Round 9: Bulleen Bye, North Caulfield 1 Oakleigh 1, South Melbourne 4 Doncaster Rovers JSC 1, Port Melbourne 4 Riversdale Raiders 0, Croydon City Arrows 2 Clayton 0

MILO Boys East 13 B. Round 9: Ashburton Bye, Nunawading City 1 Richmond 5, Eastern Lions 3 Kingston City 5, Boronia 2 Manningham 0, Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Monash City 6

MILO Boys East 13 C. Round 9: Caulfield Utd Bye, North Caulfield 2 Springvale City 0, Bye Glen Waverley, Mooroolbark 1 Ringwood City 4, Richmond 1 Brandon Park 1

MILO Boys East 13 D. Round 9: East Bentleigh Bye, Croydon City Arrows 3 North Caulfield 0 Boroondara Lions 1 Boronia 6, Doncaster Rovers 2 Ashburton 0, Glen Waverley 2 Glen Elira 0

M.O. Boys East 12 A. Round 9: Whitehorse Bye, Glen Waverley 0 Knox City 10, South Melbourne 8 East Bentleigh 0, Monash City 0 Bulleen 1, Richmond 1 Box Hill Inter 2

M.O. Boys East 12 B. Round 9: North Caulfield 2 Oakleigh 0, Bulleen 2 Stonnington City 1, Riversdale Raiders 1 Doncaster Rovers JSC 3, Glen Waverley 1 Ringwood City 7, Bye Croydon City Arrows JSC

M.O. Boys East 12 C. Round 9: North Caulfield 2 Waverley Wanderers 0, Bulleen 4 Eastern Lions 0, Mooroolbark 0 Melbourne United 8, Boroondara Lions 5 Ashburton 0, Bye Brandon Park

MILO Boys East 12 D. Round 9: Croydon City Arrows JSC 0 North Caulfield 0, Bye Eastern Lions, Doncaster Rovers JSC 10 Riversdale Raiders 0, Knox City 0 Manningham 3, Bye Clayton

M.O. Boys East 12 E. Round 9: Whitehorse 1 Bentleigh Greens 4, Bye Northcote City, Bye Ringwood City Caulfield United 9 Frankston Strikers 1, Richmond 3, Croydon City Arrows JSC 8

MILO Boys East 11 Kangaroos Green. Round 9: Glen Waverley Bye, North Caulfield 1 Oakleigh 1, South Melbourne 8 Doncaster Rovers JSC 1 Boronia 0 Box Hill Inter 11, Richmond 0 Croydon City Arrows JSC 2

M.O. Boys East 11 Kangaroos Purple. Round 9: Riversdale Raiders 0 Nunawading City 1, Stonnington City 2 Ringwood City 1, South Melbourne 8 Doncaster Rovers JSC 0, Boronia Bulleen, Richmond 0 Monash City 9

MILO Boys East 11 Joys Orange. Round 9: East Bentleigh Bye, North Caulfield 2 Eastern Lions 0, Bulleen 5 Knox Utd 1, Doncaster Rovers JSC Bye 1, Richmond 0 Clayton 5

MILO Boys East 11 Joys Blue. Round 9: Ashburton Bye, Croydon City Arrows JSC 1 Richmond 4, East Bentleigh 1 Kingston City 1, Caulfield Utd 1 Manningham 0, Nunawading City 1 Bulleen 3

MILO Boys East 11 Joys Red. Round 9: Ashburton Bye, North Caulfield 1 Richmond 3, Glen Elira 0 Knox City 5, Doncaster Rovers Melbourne Utd, Sherbrooke Rangers 4 Brandon Park 0

M.O. Boys East 11 Joys Yellow. Round 9: Ringwood City Springvale City, Boroondara Lions 1 Monash City 5, Mooroolbark 7 Eastern Lions 0, Riversdale Raiders 1 Glen Elira 9, Glen Waverley 0 Port Melbourne JSC 2

MILO Boys N/W 16 B. Round 9: Werribee City 3 Altona City 0, Sydenham Park 1 Lalor Utd 5, Maribymong Green 1 Altona East, Kallor Wolves 2 Meadow Park 1, Broadmeadows Utd 6 Watsonia Heights 0

MILO Boys N/W 14 B. Round 9: North Sunshine Eagles Bye, Gisborne 0 Essendon Royals 3, Sydenham Park 1 Sunbury Utd 0, Bundoora 0 Altona East 1, Light Utd 0 Sunshine Georgies 0

M.O. Boys N/W 14 C. Round 9: BYE Altona City Northcote City 3 Essendon Royals 0, Flemington Eagles Watsonia Heights, Werribee City 2 Lalor Utd 2

M.O. Boys N/W 13 B. Round 9: Mill Park 0 Laverton Park 4, Epping City 3 Hoppers Crossing JSC 0, Fawkner

5 North Coburg United 0, Heidelberg Utd 0 Brunswick Zebras 7, North Sunshine Eagles 1 Brunswick City 1

M.O. Boys N/W 13 C. Round 9: Brunswick Zebras Bye, Plenty Valley Lions 8 Altona City 1, Brimbank City 1 Westvale 1, Whittlesea Utd 3 Melbourne Lions 2, Kallor Wolves 17 Mill Park 0

MILO Boys North 16 A. Round 9: Eltham North 0 Heidelberg Stans 11, Epping City 3 Light Utd 1, Moreland Utd 0 Bundoora 6, Clifton Hill Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 2, North Coburg Utd 1 Brunswick City 1

MILO Boys North 15 A. Round 9: Whittlesea Utd Bye, Whittlesea Stallions 5 Essendon Royals 2, Preston Lions 4 Bundoora 0, Eltham North 0 Brunswick Zebras 4, Moreland Wolves Brunswick City

MILO Boys North 15 B. Round 9: Northcote City 2 Brimbank City 1, Brunswick Zebras 1 Light Utd 3, Yarraville 4 Lalor 0, Heidelberg Utd, Carlton Youth FC, Sunbury United 2 Plenty Valley Lions 2

MILO Boys North 14 A. Round 9: Epping City Bye, Hume Utd 1 Essendon Royals 2, Moreland Utd 0 Bundoora 1, Fawkner 6 Brunswick Zebras 0, North Coburg Utd 3 Eltham North 1

MILO Boys North 13 A. Round 9: Whittlesea Stallions 2 Essendon Royals 3, Epping City 2 Lalor Utd 2, Bundoora 1 Bendigo Amateur Soccer League 1, Moreland City 0 Light Utd 6, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Eltham North 2

MILO Boys North 12 A. Round 9: Hume Utd 2 Essendon Royals 2, North City Lions 0 Sunbury Utd 6, Fawkner Bundoora, Heidelberg Utd 2 Epping City 1, North Coburg Utd 3 Brunswick City 2

MILO Boys North 12 B. Round 9: Whittlesea Stallions 1 Light Utd, Epping City 4 Lalor Utd 0, Fawkner Bendigo Amateur Soccer League, Moreland City 0 Brunswick Zebras 6, Preston Lions 2 Eltham North 4

MILO Boys North 12 C. Round 9: Meadow Park Bye, Eltham North Bye, Banyule City 4 Plenty Valley Lions 1, Bundoora 2 Fawkner 0, Clifton Hill Utd 0 Whittlesea Stallions 3

MILO Boys North 12 D. Round 9: Hume Utd 1 Essendon Royals 4, Brunswick Zebras 2 Alphonina 1, Moreland Utd 1 Broadmeadows Utd 2, Watsonia Heights 0 Youth Utd 4, Moreland Wolves 0 Greenvale Utd 2

MILO Boys North 11 Kangaroos Green. Round 9: Epping City Bye, Eltham North 1 Heidelberg Stans 3, Bundoora 0 Preston Lions 2, Heidelberg Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 2, North City Lions 2 Brunswick City 1

MILO Boys North 11 Kangaroos Purple. Round 9: Fawkner Bye, Melbourne Knights 1 Essendon Royals 1 Brunswick Zebras 0 Light Utd 2, Moreland City 1 Clifton Hill Utd 0, North City Lions 0 Whittlesea Stallions 2

M.O. Boys North 11 Joys Blue. Round 9: Brunswick City 0 Essendon Royals 3, Epping City 1 Lalor Utd 0, Moreland Utd 4 Knox Park 0, Light United North 2 Diamond Valley Utd 4, North Coburg Utd 0 Watsonia Heights 1

MILO Boys West 16 A. Round 9: Kallor Park 4 Western Eagles 1 Altona Rovers 6 WWSA 2 Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 4 Sunbury Utd 2, Sunshine Heights 1 Laverton Park 1, St Albans 6 Gisborne 0

MILO Boys West 15 A. Round 9: Kallor Park 4 Altona Magic 2, Avondale Heights 0 Brimbank 6, Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 5 Melton 3, Hoppers Crossing JSC 1 Sunshine Georgies 12, St Albans 0 North Sunshine Eagles 5

MILO Boys West 14 A. Round 9: Ballarat Academy Of Soccer Bye, Kallor Park 2 Altona City 0, Altona Rovers 10 Brimbank 0, Hoppers Crossing 1 Laverton Park 6, St Albans 0 Green Gully 2

MILO Boys West 13 A. Round 9: Kallor Park 1 Western Eagles 0, Sydenham Park 0 Werribee City 2 Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 11 Melbourne Knights 0, Sunshine Heights 3 Sunshine Georgies 3, Watsonstown 1 Green Gully 5

MILO Boys West 12 A. Round 9: Melbourne Knights 0 Altona City 0, Sydenham Park 0 Brimbank 1, Altona Rovers 3 Werribee City 0, Hoppers Crossing JSC 0 Green Gully 7, Sunshine Heights 1 Kallor Park 4

MILO Boys West 12 B. Round 9: Kallor Park Bye, Avondale Heights 2 Brimbank 1, Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 2 Melton 2, Gisborne 1 Sunshine Georgies 1, St Albans 3 Green Gully 1

MILO Boys West 11 Kangaroos Green. Round 9: Flemington Eagles Bye, Bye Altona City, Altona Rovers 4 WWSA 2, Hoppers Crossing 0 Green Gully 2, Gisborne 2 Kallor Park 0

MILO Boys West 11 Joys Blue. Round 9: Bye Satellite City Utd, Williamstown Bye, Kallor Park 0 Werribee City 1 Maribymong Greens 2

MILO Boys West 11 Joys Red. Round 9: Altona City Bye, Sydenham Park Bye, Gisborne 0 Bendigo Amateur Soccer League 12, Sunbury Utd 0 Sunshine Georgies 0, St Albans 1 Green Gully 3

MILO Girls Metro 18 Green. Round 9: Whitehorse Bye, Sydenham Park Bye, Bundoora 13 Brunswick Zebras 0, St Albans 0 Sandringham City 3, Heidelberg United Bulleen

MILO Girls Metro 18 Purple. Round 9: Bye Endeavour Utd, Noble Park Bye, Croydon City Arrows JSC 2 Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Glen Elira 0 Berwick City 4, Langwarrin Mornington

MILO Girls Metro 15 A. Round 9: Westgate 2 Bendigo Amateur Soccer League 5, Watsonia Heights 0 Ashburton 4, Epping City Bye, Richmond 3 Glen Elira 0

MILO Girls Metro 15 B. Round 9: Sandringham City Bye, Rosebud 1 Brighton JSC 1, Baxter Bye, Boroondara Lions 0 Berwick City 4, Langwarrin 7 Mornington 0

MILO Girls Metro 15 C. Round 9: North Caulfield Bye, Hampton Park Utd 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 4, Brighton JSC 1 Eastern Lions 0, Mornington 2 East Bentleigh 7, Bye Croydon City Arrows JSC

M.O. Girls Metro 13 A. Round 9: Baxter 2 Beaumaris 1, Brighton JSC 1 Berwick City 0, Peninsula Sherbrooke Rangers, Knox City 5 Mornington 0, Croydon City Arrows JSC 3 Sandringham City 2

MILO Girls Metro 13 B. Round 9: Doncaster Rovers JSC 3 Nunawading City 0, Richmond 4 Western Eagles 0, Brunswick Zebras 0 Dandenong Thunder 2, Carrum Utd 1 Brighton JSC 3, Boroondara Lions 4 Sunbury Utd 0

MILO Girls Metro 13 C. Round 9: Caulfield Utd Hoppers Crossing JSC, Langwarrin 1 Bundoora 3, Beaumaris 5 Watsonia Heights 0, East Bentleigh Brighton JSC, Doncaster Rovers JSC 0 Altona City 7

MILO Girls S/E 16 A. Round 9: Chelsea Bye, Glen Waverley 3 Casey Panthers 4, Whitehorse 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 5, Langwarrin 5 Mooroolbark 0, Phillip Island 2, Cranbourne Comets 1

MILO Girls S/E 16 B. Round 9: Berwick Kings Richmond, Knox City 1 North Caulfield 3, Dandenong City 8 Croydon City Arrows JSC 0, Boroondara Lions 11 Boronia 0, Seaford Utd 5 Brighton JSC 0

MILO Girls S/E 14 A. Round 9: Sandringham City Bye, Berwick City Bye, Whitehorse 0 Richmond 3, Doncaster Rovers JSC 2 Mornington 4, Brighton JSC 7 Boronia 0

MILO Girls S/E 14 B. Round 9: Brighton JSC Bye, Bye Glen Elira, Ringwood City Seaford Utd, Langwarrin Mooroolbark, Richmond 0 North Caulfield 1

MILO Girls S/E 14 C. Round 9: Sandringham City 6 Eastern Lions 0, Glen Waverley 6 Boronia 0, Endeavour Utd 4 North Caulfield 0, Kingston City Casey Panthers, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Ashburton 0

MILO Girls S/E 12 A. Round 9: Brighton JSC Bye, Sandringham City Croydon City Arrows JSC, Glen Elira 0 Ashburton 6, Richmond 0 North Caulfield 9, Boroondara Lions 3 Berwick City 0

MILO Girls S/E 12 B. Round 9: Glen Waverley Bye, Box Hill Inter 0 Baxter 1, Brighton JSC Melbourne Utd 1, Melbourne United 2, Sherbrooke Rangers Boronia 1, Glen Elira 1

MILO Girls S/E 12 C. Round 9: Knox City Bye, Port Melbourne JSC 1 Mornington 1, Baxter 1 North Caulfield 1, Sandringham City 0 Beaumaris 1, Carrum Utd 1 Caulfield Utd 1

MILO Girls S/E 11. Round 9: North Caulfield 1 Richmond 1, Brighton JSC Bye, Bye Croydon City Arrows JSC, Carrum Utd 1 Ashburton 0, Boroondara Lions 0 Sherbrooke Rangers 1

MILO Girls N/W 16 A. Round 9: South Melbourne 4 Bundoora 1, Sunshine Georgies 3 Essendon Royals 0, North City Lions 2 Whittlesea Stallions 0, Gisborne 0 Altona City 3, Sunbury Utd, Epping City

MILO Girls N/W 16 B. Round 9: Kallor Park Bye, Sandringham City 5 Brunswick Zebras 0, Altona Rovers 6 Brimbank 2, Williamstown 1 Eltham North 0, Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 3 Melton 0

MILO Girls N/W 14. Round 9: Bundoora Bye, Kallor Park 3 Gisborne 0, Epping City 3 Meadow Park 2, Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 2 Brunswick Zebras 1, Eltham North 3 Brunswick City 0

MILO Girls N/W 12. Round 9: BYE Eltham North, Alphonina 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Brunswick Zebras 2 Essendon Royals A 0, Bendigo Amateur Soccer League Brunswick City

MILO Boys S/E 16 Super League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Knox City JSC	8	1	0	37	2	25	
Bulleen JSC	8	3	1	38	8	20	
South Melbourne JFC	8	0	2	34	12	18	
Southern Stars JFC	4	2	2	15	10	14	
Bentleigh Greens JSC	3	2	4	9	27	11	
South Eastern Piranhas	2	3	4	13	15	9	
Doncaster Rovers JSC	2	2	5	15	35	8	
Glen Waverley JSC	1	4	3	14	23	7	
Oakleigh JSC	1	1	8	8	24	4	
Whitehorse	7	0	1	6	42	9	

MILO Boys S/E 15 Super League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Box Hill Inter JSC	8	1	1	34	13	19	
South Melbourne JFC	7	4	2	17	8	14	
Bulleen JSC	7	4	2	13	5	14	
Kingston City JSC	8	4	2	14	10	14	
Gippsland Soccer League	6	4	0	12	18	12	
Noble Park JSC	3	1	4	17	23	10	
Whitehorse	3	0	5	14	13	9	
Doncaster Rovers JSC	3	0	4	10	28	4	
Beaumaris SC	3	0	2	8	18	2	

MILO Boys S/E 14 Super League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Melbourne JFC	9	1	0	32	5	25	
Box Hill Inter JSC	8	7	0	25	6	21	
Bulleen JSC	9	5	3	12	7	18	
Knox City JSC	3	3	1	14	11	16	
Endeavour Utd	3	2	4	12	10	11	
Manningham SC	3	2	3	12	14	11	
Doncaster Rovers JSC	3	2	4	10	15	11	
Chelsea JSC	3	1	2	5	17	5	
Whitehorse	3	1	2	6	29	5	
Beaumaris SC	3	0	1	6	33	1	

MILO Boys S/E 13 Super League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monash City JSC	9	7	1	1	32	4	22
Box Hill Inter JSC	8	3	0	24	5	21	
Bulleen JSC	9	16	2	20	7	20	
Mornington SC	9	4	2	31	13	14	
Gipsland Soccer League	9	4	14	16	14	13	
Numawading City JSC	9	3	2	4	17	15	11
Dandenong City JSC	9	3	1	5	14	14	10
Knox City JSC	9	3	0	6	18	19	9
Beaumaris SC	9	3	0	6	13	27	9
Baxter Soccer Club	9	0	0	9	1	30	0

JUNIOR LEAGUES

Dandenong Thunder JSC	9 4 1 4 4 23 13
Brighton JSC	9 3 2 4 13 11
Benwick City JSC	9 2 1 1 13 9
Mornington SC	8 2 2 4 13 21
Hampton Park Jtd	9 1 1 8 12 41
Seaford Jtd	9 0 1 8 9 35 1

MILO Boys South 15 B

Dandenong City JSC	9 9 0 0 6 3 11 27
Bentleigh Greens JSC	9 8 0 1 16 5 24
Endeavour United JSC	9 6 1 2 28 8 19
Benwick City JSC	9 5 0 4 23 19 15
Rosebud JSC	9 4 1 4 20 29 13
Baxter Soccer Club	9 4 0 5 18 22 12
Langwarrin SC	9 3 1 5 22 20 10
Beaumaris SC	9 3 1 5 20 28 10
Brighton JSC	9 0 1 8 6 41 1
Mornington A	9 0 1 8 5 51 1

MILO Boys South 14 A

Springvale White Eagles	8 8 0 0 4 8 9 24
Mornington	9 7 0 2 56 12 21
Brighton	8 6 0 2 38 18 18
Sandringham City	9 6 0 3 32 15 18
Langwarrin	9 5 1 3 24 10 18
Lyndale Utd	8 4 0 4 27 25 12
Benwick City	8 3 1 4 23 19 10
Hampton Park Jtd	9 1 0 8 8 49 3
Beaumaris	9 1 0 8 10 58 3
Baxter	9 1 0 8 7 58 3

MILO Boys South 14 B

Frankston Pines JSC	8 7 0 1 44 8 21
Dandenong City JSC	8 7 0 1 25 4 21
Cranbourne Camels JSC	8 5 1 2 30 4 16
Brighton JSC	8 4 1 1 21 21 13
Mornington SC	8 3 1 1 20 15 10
Langwarrin SC	8 3 1 1 17 24 10
Peninsula JSC	8 3 0 5 5 28 9
Sandringham City JSC	8 1 0 7 10 38 3
White Star Dandenong JSC	8 1 0 7 8 46 3
Heatherton Utd	0 0 0 0

MILO Boys South 13 A

Bentleigh Greens JSC	9 7 1 1 24 7 22
Dandenong Thunder JSC	8 7 0 1 31 3 21
Benwick City JSC	9 6 0 3 36 8 18
Brighton JSC	9 5 1 3 31 1 16
Frankston Pines JSC	8 6 0 3 20 6 15
Langwarrin SC	8 4 2 2 21 5 14
Dorval JSC	9 2 3 4 16 24 9
Mornington SC	9 0 1 2 8 44 5
Hampton Park Utd	8 0 2 6 3 31 2
Endeavour Jtd	9 0 1 8 3 49 1

MILO Boys South 13 B

Benwick City JSC	9 7 0 2 42 10 21
East Bentleigh JSC	8 7 0 1 39 9 21
Lyndale Utd	7 6 1 0 31 5 19
Sandringham City JSC	8 5 1 2 32 10 16
Beaumaris SC	8 5 1 1 27 15 16
Brighton JSC	8 3 0 5 19 25 9
Phillip Island JSC	8 2 2 6 17 38 8
Carrum Jtd	8 2 0 6 8 36 6
Hampton Park Jtd	8 1 1 7 8 50 4
Seaford Jtd	8 0 2 8 3 29 2

MILO Boys South 13 C

Beaumaris	8 5 0 0 30 8 24
Cranbourne Camels	8 5 2 1 27 8 7
Springvale White Eagles	7 5 0 2 19 14 16
Langwarrin	8 4 2 2 18 12 14
Seaford Jtd	8 4 1 3 25 15 13
Brighton	8 2 0 6 13 24 6
Benwick City	7 1 1 5 17 4
Baxter	8 1 1 6 4 19 4
Sandringham City	8 1 1 6 8 30 4

MILO Boys South 12 A

Beaumaris SC	8 8 1 1 24 5 24
Benwick City JSC	8 6 2 2 36 7 20
Dandenong City JSC	8 6 2 2 27 13 20
Sandringham City JSC	8 5 2 2 27 14 17
Peninsula JSC	8 4 3 2 20 7 15
Bentleigh Greens JSC	8 4 2 3 18 12 14
Mornington SC	8 2 0 7 11 22 6
Brighton JSC	8 2 0 7 8 8 6
Hampton Park Utd	8 1 0 8 3 30 3
Langwarrin SC	9 1 0 8 9 48 3

MILO Boys South 12 B

Hampton	8 6 0 0 23 3 24
Beaumaris	8 5 1 2 15 5 16
Brighton	8 4 1 3 10 11 13
Cranbourne Camels	8 4 0 4 12 12 12
Benwick City	8 3 1 4 13 11 10
Mornington	8 3 1 4 9 11 10
Seaford Jtd	8 3 1 4 10 15 10
Sandringham City	8 1 2 5 6 11 5
Chelsea	8 1 1 6 2 21 4
Langwarrin	0 0 0 0

MILO Boys South 12 C

Rosebud JSC	6 6 0 0 28 0 18
Baxter Soccer Club	7 4 1 2 15 10 13
Beaumaris SC	7 4 1 2 15 12 13
Langwarrin SC	6 3 0 1 11 6 12
Mornington SC	6 3 0 3 6 8 9
Sandringham City JSC	6 1 1 4 7 16 4
Seaford Jtd	7 1 0 6 10 22 3
Brighton JSC	7 1 0 6 5 23 3

MILO Boys South 12 D

Bentleigh Greens JSC	7 7 0 0 68 1 21
Harrisfield Hurricanes	7 6 0 1 56 5 18
Keyborough JSC	7 4 1 2 46 20 13
Peninsula JSC	6 3 1 2 21 12 10

Hampton JSC	6 2 0 4 17 22 6
Lyndale Utd	6 1 0 5 5 48 3
Casey Panthers JSC	7 1 0 6 7 52 3
Endeavour Hills SC	6 1 0 5 2 57 3

MILO Boys South 11 Kangaroos Green

Brighton	8 7 1 0 30 10 22
Benwick City	8 6 1 1 23 7 19
Beaumaris	8 6 2 1 28 6 17
Heatherton Utd	8 4 1 3 20 14 13
Mornington	8 4 1 3 16 12 13
Dandenong City	8 2 1 5 12 15 7
Sandringham City	8 1 3 4 6 16 6
Hampton	8 1 1 6 7 27 4
Cranbourne Camels	8 0 1 7 7 40 1

MILO Boys South 11 Kangaroos Purple

Sandringham City JSC	8 6 1 1 51 6 19
Noble Park JSC	8 5 2 1 36 3 17
Langwarrin SC	7 4 3 0 20 3 15
Seaford Utd	8 4 3 1 23 9 15
Dandenong Thunder JSC	8 4 2 2 31 10 14
Springvale White Eagles	8 3 1 4 28 13 10
Peninsula JSC	8 1 1 6 3 37 4
Mornington SC	7 0 2 5 1 44 2
Rosebud JSC	8 0 1 7 2 70 1

MILO Boys South 11 Joys Blue

Benwick City	8 8 0 0 56 5 24
Sandringham City	8 7 0 1 31 10 21
Brighton	8 5 1 2 17 13 16
Endeavour Utd	8 5 1 2 16 15 16
Beaumaris	8 3 0 5 12 17 9
Baxter	8 2 1 5 16 21 7
Dandenong City	8 2 1 5 7 23 7
Dorval JSC	8 2 0 6 8 19 6
Carrum Jtd	8 0 0 8 1 43 0

MILO Boys South 11 Joys Red

Brighton B	9 7 1 1 22 5 22
Hampton Park Utd	8 6 2 0 34 4 20
Mornington	9 6 1 2 20 7 19
Sandringham City	9 6 1 2 20 10 19
Hampton	9 5 0 4 20 10 16
Keyborough	8 3 0 5 12 19 9
Langwarrin	8 3 0 5 6 21 9
Brighton A	9 1 2 6 3 19 5
Beaumaris	8 1 1 6 6 21 4
Benwick City	9 1 0 6 7 24 3

MILO Boys East 18 A

Bulleen JSC	8 7 0 1 18 7 21
Riversdale Raiders	8 6 1 1 30 1 19
Nunawading City JSC	8 6 1 2 29 15 16
East Bentleigh JSC	8 6 1 2 28 14 16
Manningham JSC	8 6 1 2 18 10 16
Glen Waverley JSC	8 3 0 5 18 12 9
Doncaster Rovers JSC	8 1 1 6 8 37 4
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	8 1 1 6 8 43 4
Ashburton JSC	8 0 0 8 8 34 0

MILO Boys East 18 B

Boroondara Lions JFC	7 6 1 0 23 9 19
Richmond JSC	7 5 1 1 24 7 16
North Caulfield JSC	7 4 1 2 38 8 13
Boronia JSC	7 4 1 2 30 16 13
Mooolbark JSC	7 2 2 3 25 31 8
Eastern Lions	6 1 1 4 14 21 4
Manningham JSC	6 1 1 4 15 28 4
Glen Elira JSC	7 0 0 7 9 84 0

MILO Boys East 15 A

Bulleen JSC	8 8 1 2 7 19
South Springvale JSC	8 4 2 2 16 11 14
North Caulfield JSC	8 4 1 3 11 7 13
Boronia JSC	8 4 1 3 6 19 13
South Melbourne JFC	8 3 3 2 12 9 12
Manningham JSC	8 3 1 4 14 11 0
Richmond JSC	8 3 1 4 13 24 19
Knox City JSC	8 2 1 5 9 15 7
Doncaster Rovers JSC	8 1 1 6 8 26 4
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	0 0 0 0

MILO Boys East 15 B

Eastern Lions	9 7 1 1 25 8 22
Brandan Park JSC	8 6 2 0 26 10 20
Croydon City Arrows JSC	8 6 0 2 19 7 16
Glen Waverley JSC	9 4 2 3 23 20 14
Nunawading City JSC	9 4 1 3 30 13 13
North Caulfield JSC	9 4 1 4 18 13 13
Westvale SC	9 3 3 1 10 9 12
Doncaster Rovers JSC	9 1 3 5 10 14 6
East Bentleigh JSC	9 1 2 8 26 5
Boronia JSC	9 0 1 8 4 40 1

MILO Boys East 15 C

Boroondara Lions JFC	8 8 0 0 36 6 24
Ashburton JSC	8 5 2 1 24 8 17
Port Melbourne JSC	8 5 1 2 32 12 16
Caulfield Utd	8 5 2 2 18 11 16
Ringwood City JSC	8 4 0 4 19 16 12
Manningham JSC	8 3 0 5 15 19 9
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	7 1 0 8 9 33 3
Mooolbark JSC	8 1 0 7 8 36 3
Richmond JSC	7 1 0 6 2 30 3

MILO Boys East 14 A

Bulleen JSC	8 7 0 1 33 7 21
Nunawading City JSC	8 7 0 1 19 7 21
Kingston City JSC	8 5 1 2 21 10 16
Richmond JSC	8 3 2 1 16 10 11
Eastern Lions	8 3 1 4 18 13 10
Glen Waverley JSC	8 3 0 5 22 20 9
Riversdale Raiders	8 2 2 4 10 13 8
Caulfield Utd	8 2 0 6 10 46 6
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	8 0 2 6 8 31 2

MILO Boys East 14 B

Southern Stars JFC	8 8 0 0 15 6 24
Manningham JSC	9 4 1 1 14 13 18
Bulleen JSC	9 5 1 2 18 11 7
Melbourne Utd	9 5 1 3 22 1 16
Glen Elira JSC	9 4 2 3 22 12 14
Caulfield JSC	8 4 1 3 23 15 13
North Caulfield JSC	8 2 3 3 14 9 9
Whitehorse	7 2 0 5 9 27 6
Springvale City JSC	8 1 1 6 10 22 4
Clayton JSC	9 0 0 9 4 46 0

MILO Boys East 14 C

Doncaster Rovers JSC	9 2 0 1 43 9 24
Beaumaris SC	9 6 1 2 25 15 19
Benwick City JSC	9 6 0 3 30 12 18
Nunawading City JSC	9 4 0 4 24 20 15
Croydon City Arrows JSC	9 4 2 3 22 19 14
Mooolbark JSC	9 4 1 2 22 19 13
Knox City JSC	9 3 1 5 27 34 10
Stonnington City JSC	9 2 1 6 18 31 7
Glen Waverley JSC	9 1 2 6 15 30 5
Brighton JSC	9 1 2 6 13 41 5

MILO Boys East 14 D

Manningham JSC	9 8 0 1 45 8 24
Boronia JSC	9 7 0 2 43 8 21
Ashburton JSC	9 7 0 2 35 2 21
Chairoa SC	9 6 1 2 48 10 19
Hamp JSC	9 5 0 4 26 15 15
East Bentleigh JSC	8 4 1 3 25 18 13
Eastern Lions	9 3 0 5 12 50 8
Doncaster Rovers JSC	9 2 0 7 15 41 6
Ringwood City JSC	8 1 0 7 11 45 3
Glen Elira JSC	9 0 0 8 8 64 0

MILO Boys East 13 A

North Caulfield	8 6 2 0 21 6 20
Oakleigh	8 5 1 2 27 3 16
South Melbourne	8 5 1 2 21 15 16
Doncaster Rovers	8 5 0 3 16 15 15
Bulleen	8 5 0 3 25 9 15
Croydon City Arrows	8 3 1 4 11 13 13
Riversdale Raiders	8 2 0 6 12 27 6
Port Melbourne	8 1 1 6 9 30 4
Clayton	8 1 0 7 10 25 3

MILO Boys East 13 B

Boronia JSC	8 7 0 1 30 7 21
Kingston City JSC	8 6 2 0 21 8 20
Monash City JSC	8 4 1 3 22 10 13
Manningham JSC	8 4 0 4 13 8 12
Ashburton JSC	8 3 3 2 8 15 12
Richmond JSC	8 3 2 3 14 11 11
Eastern Lions	8 2 1 5 9 17 7
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	8 1 1 6 4 29 4
Nunawading City JSC	8 0 2 6 2 18 2

MILO Boys East 13 C

Ringwood City JSC	7 5 0 2 13 7 15
North Caulfield JSC	7 4 2 1 13 8 14
Glen Waverley JSC	6 4 1 1 16 7 13
Brandan Park JSC	6 3 2 1 13 9 11
Richmond JSC	7 2 4 1 9 5 10
Springvale City JSC	6 1 1 4 9 16 4
Mooolbark JSC	7 1 1 5 16 16 4
Mooolbark JSC	6 1 1 5 7 18 1

MILO Boys East 13 D

Doncaster Rovers	8 8 0 0 39 2 24
East Bentleigh	8 5 0 2 19 5 18
Boronia	8 6 0 2 22 11 18
Ashburton	8 5 0 3 28 12 15
Boroondara Lions	8 4 0 4 17 14 12
Croydon City Arrows	8 2 1 5 16 24 7
Glen Waverley	8 2 1 5 9 24 7
North Caulfield	8 2 0 6 9 27 6
Glen Elira	8 0 0 8 2 42 0

MILO Boys East 12 A

Box Hill Inter JSC	8 5 0 0 34 7 24
Bulleen JSC	8 5 0 2 28 5 18
Monash City JSC	8 5 1 2 25 8 16
Whitehorse	8 5 0 3 18 9 15
Richmond JSC	7 4 1 2 29 7 13
South Melbourne JFC	8 3 0 5 23 21 9
Knox City JSC	8 3 0 6 13 27 6
East Bentleigh JSC	8 0 1 7 2 37 1
Glen Waverley JSC	7 0 1 6 3 55 1

MILO Boys East 12 B

Oakleigh JSC	8 7 0 1 27 9 21
North Caulfield JSC	8 7 0 1 22 8 21
Ringwood City JSC	8 5 2 1 25 10 17
Bulleen JSC	8 3 3 2 18 12 12
Doncaster Rovers JSC	8 3 3 2 12 8 12
Croydon City Arrows JSC	8 2 1 5 15 21 7
Stonnington City JSC	8 2 1 5 7 19 7
Riversdale Raiders	8 2 0 6 15 14 6
Glen Waverley JSC	8 0 0 8 6 47 0

MILO Boys East 12 C

Bulleen JSC	8 7 1 2 35 2 22
Melbourne United JSC	8 6 0 2 30 5 18
North Caulfield JSC	8 6 0 2 30 5 18
Brandan Park JSC	8 6 0 2 19 5 18
Waverley Wanderers JSC	8 4 1 3 26 10 13

MILO

JUNIOR LEAGUE



MILO Boys North 12 D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Greenvale Jld	9	7	1	1	33	3	22
Broadmeadows Utd	9	7	1	1	34	11	22
Essendon Royals JSC	9	6	3	0	32	6	21
Mordial Jld	8	5	0	3	18	13	15
Youth Jld	8	3	3	2	17	4	12
Brunswick Zebras JSC	9	4	0	5	14	22	12
Hume Jld	9	3	2	1	14	18	11
Watsonia Heights JSC	9	2	1	6	15	34	7
Moreland Wolves	9	1	1	7	11	32	4
Auphington	9	0	0	9	5	40	0

MILO Boys North 11 Kangaroos Green

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bundoora JSC	8	8	1	1	22	3	19
Preston Lions JSC	8	5	3	0	24	5	18
Brunswick Zebras JSC	8	5	3	0	19	5	16
North City Lions JSC	8	5	2	1	22	10	17
Brunswick City JSC	8	4	1	3	20	10	9
Heidelberg Stars JSC	8	3	0	5	13	17	9
Heidelberg Utd	8	2	0	8	8	26	6
Epping City SC	8	1	0	7	4	31	3
Eltham North JSC	8	0	0	8	1	43	0

MILO Boys North 11 Kangaroos Purple

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Melbourne Knights JSC	8	6	2	0	30	7	20
Essendon Royals JSC	8	5	2	1	27	8	17
Whitsea Stallions JSC	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Light Utd	8	4	3	1	16	3	15
Fawcett JSC	7	4	1	2	13	12	13
Moreland City JSC	7	3	0	4	12	9	9
North City Lions JSC	8	2	1	5	11	16	7
Brunswick Zebras JSC	8	0	1	7	4	27	1
Clifton Hill Utd	8	0	1	7	4	34	1

MILO Boys North 11 Joeys Blue

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moreland Jld	9	8	1	0	37	2	25
Diamond Valley Jld	9	8	1	0	26	3	25
Essendon Royals JSC	9	8	1	2	18	6	19
Watsonia Heights JSC	9	5	0	4	13	12	15
Keon Park SC	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Light United North JSC	6	3	0	3	14	15	9
North Coburg Utd	6	2	2	4	7	10	8
Lalor Jld	8	1	1	6	4	20	4
Brunswick City JSC	9	1	1	7	6	38	4
Epping City SC	9	1	0	8	2	39	3

MILO Boys West 10 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Albion Rovers	9	9	0	0	59	7	27
Kellor Park	9	7	1	1	41	6	22
St Albans	9	7	0	2	48	17	21
Western Eagles	9	6	1	3	22	20	16
Ballarat Academy Of Soccer	9	4	3	2	28	17	15
WVSA	9	3	0	6	22	31	9
Sunbury Utd	8	2	1	6	17	40	7
Laverton Park	8	1	3	6	12	22	8
Gisborne	8	2	0	7	10	42	6
Sunshine Heights	9	0	1	8	2	57	1

MILO Boys West 15 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunshine Georges JSC	9	7	2	0	52	8	23
Albion Magic JSC	8	5	3	1	36	9	18
North Sunshine Eagles JSC	8	5	2	1	33	10	17
Brimbank JSC	9	5	2	2	38	15	17
Ballarat Academy Of Soccer	8	5	1	3	18	19	16
Kellor Park JSC	8	4	2	3	27	24	14
Avondale Heights JSC	9	3	0	6	14	35	8
St Albans	9	2	0	7	22	39	6
Melton SC	8	2	0	6	20	49	6
Hoppers Crossing JSC	9	0	0	8	2	68	0

MILO Boys West 14 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Albion Rovers	8	6	1	1	27	6	18
Green Gully	8	6	1	1	23	6	18
Kellor Park	8	5	2	1	22	7	17
Ballarat Academy Of Soccer	8	4	2	2	14	14	14
Albion City	8	4	1	3	25	6	13
Laverton Park	8	2	2	4	14	21	8
Hoppers Crossing	8	2	0	8	12	24	8
St Albans	8	1	2	5	6	23	5
Brimbank	8	0	1	7	1	42	1

MILO Boys West 13 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunshine Heights	8	7	1	0	40	7	22
Sunshine Georges	8	6	2	1	34	12	20
Ballarat Academy Of Soccer	9	6	1	2	22	14	19
Kellor Park	9	6	0	3	22	18	18
Wentworth City	8	5	0	3	21	10	15
Sydney Park	8	3	2	4	11	15	11
Green Gully	8	3	1	5	18	15	10
Western Eagles	8	3	1	5	18	19	10
Williamstown	9	1	0	8	5	64	3
Melbourne Knights	9	0	0	9	1	45	0

MILO Boys West 12 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Green Gully JSC	9	7	1	1	28	5	22
Albion Rovers JSC	9	7	0	2	40	11	21
Albion City JSC	9	6	2	1	39	6	20
Brimbank JSC	9	6	2	1	27	6	20
Wentworth City JSC	9	5	1	3	21	11	16
Melbourne Knights JSC	9	3	3	3	25	11	12
Kellor Park JSC	9	3	1	5	18	17	10
Sydney Park JSC	9	2	0	7	5	23	6
Hoppers Crossing JSC	9	1	0	8	4	58	3
Sunshine Heights JSC	9	0	0	9	2	62	0

MILO Boys West 12 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunshine Georges JSC	8	7	1	0	23	4	22
Kellor Park JSC	8	6	0	2	25	2	18
Gisborne Junior Soccer Club	8	4	2	2	10	6	14
Ballarat Academy Of Soccer	8	4	1	3	15	17	13
Melton SC	8	3	1	4	11	12	10
St Albans	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Brimbank JSC	8	3	0	5	7	25	9
Avondale Heights JSC	7	2	0	5	6	18	6
Green Gully JSC	8	0	1	7	5	18	1
Albion City JSC	8	0	0	0	0	0	0

MILO Boys West 11 Kangaroos Green

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Albion City	7	8	0	1	37	4	18
Gisborne	7	6	0	1	13	5	18
Green Gully	7	6	0	2	28	5	15
Kellor Park	7	4	1	2	27	4	13
Albion Rovers	6	2	1	3	8	18	7
WVSA	7	1	1	5	10	27	4
Hoppers Crossing	7	1	1	5	10	25	4
Wentworth City	6	0	0	6	5	47	0

MILO Boys West 11 Joeys Blue

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Avondale Heights JSC	6	6	0	0	26	4	16
Laverton Park JSC	7	4	2	1	19	8	14
Kellor Park JSC	7	4	1	2	20	5	13
Williamstown JSC	6	3	2	1	16	5	11
Martinsburg Greens JSC	7	3	1	3	8	10	10
Satellite City Utd	7	2	0	5	9	26	6
Wentworth City JSC	7	1	1	5	6	21	4
Brimbank JSC	7	0	1	8	0	23	1

MILO Boys West 11 Joeys Red

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bendigo Amateur Soccer	7	6	0	1	40	9	18
Green Gully	7	5	1	1	31	8	16
Sunbury Jld	7	5	1	1	25	4	16
Sunshine Georges	7	3	3	1	26	8	12
Albion City	7	3	0	4	18	11	8
Sydney Park	7	2	0	5	14	39	6
St Albans	7	0	2	5	6	21	2
Gisborne	7	0	1	8	2	66	1

MILO Girls Metro 16 Green

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sandringham City JSC	7	7	0	0	59	2	21
Bundoora JSC	6	5	0	1	38	11	15
Sydney Park JSC	7	5	0	2	17	13	15
Brunswick Zebras JSC	7	2	2	3	27	31	8
St Albans JSC	6	2	1	3	15	18	7
Bullein JSC	6	1	1	4	10	34	4
Heidelberg United JSC	4	0	0	4	3	29	0
Whitehorse	5	0	0	5	3	44	0

MILO Girls Metro 18 Purple

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Noble Park JSC	6	6	0	0	49	1	18
Berwick City JSC	7	4	1	2	13	11	13
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	8	4	0	2	12	7	12
Mornington SC	6	4	0	2	17	12	9
Croydon City Arrows JSC	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Langwarrin SC	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
Endeavour Utd	7	2	0	5	5	16	6
Glen Elva JSC	7	1	0	6	4	28	3

MILO Girls Metro 15 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ashburton JWSC	7	5	1	1	20	8	16
Epping City SC	7	5	1	1	27	18	16
Richmond JSC	7	5	0	2	19	14	15
Bendigo Amateur Soccer	7	4	0	3	25	13	12
Beaumaris SC	7	4	0	3	23	13	12
Glen Elva JSC	7	2	0	5	14	20	6
Westgate JSC	7	1	1	5	17	27	4
Watsonia Heights JSC	7	0	1	6	5	27	1

MILO Girls Metro 15 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rosabud JSC	7	6	1	0	19	7	19
Langwarrin SC	7	4	1	2	20	9	13
Brighton JSC	7	4	1	2	11	7	13
Boroondara Lions JSC	7	3	1	3	15	12	10
Baxter Soccer Club	7	2	3	2	13	10	9
Berwick City JSC	7	2	1	4	8	13	7
Sandringham City JSC	7	2	0	5	6	19	6
Mornington SC	7	1	0	6	3	15	3

MILO Girls Metro 15 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Eastern Lions	7	6	0	1	19	3	18
East Bentleigh JSC	7	6	0	1	19	6	18
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	7	4	0	3	18	12	12
North Caulfield JSC	7	4	0	3	12	12	12
Brighton JSC	7	4	0	3	5	7	12
Croydon City Arrows JSC	7	3	0	4	11	8	9
Hampton Park Utd	7	1	0	6	2	14	3
Mornington SC	7	0	0	7	3	27	0

MILO Girls Metro 13 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brighton JSC	9	7	2	0	27	4	23
Baxter Soccer Club	9	7	0	2	27	15	24
Knox City JSC	9	6	2	1	29	7	20
Beaumaris SC	9	6	1	2	22	11	19
Croydon City Arrows JSC	9	4	2	3	13	16	14
Sandringham City JSC	9	4	1	4	12	17	13
Berwick City JSC	9	3	0	6	20	15	9
Mornington JSC	9	1	1	7	9	32	4
Peninsula JSC	8	1	1	6	28	4	1
Sherbrooke Rangers JSC	8	0	0	8	5	32	0

WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

David Cohen looks at the 32 World Cup teams and their chances, one week after the tournament's opening match.

It could be extremely dangerous to give a firm view on which teams are likely to make it through to the next round of this year's World Cup since one swallow does not make a summer.

However, having said that there are those teams that have certainly enhanced their chances of going even beyond the first hurdle of making Round Two, while some of the more fancied teams expected to do so have had shocking openers.

Group A:

The first surprise of the tournament was the defeat of Poland by the lesser fancied South Americans, Ecuador, who have shown remarkable improvement since the last tournament in Asia. Those people who may have put money on Ecuador could be in for a good run for their money and a place in the quarter-finals may not be that far-fetched.

Germany, the hosts, could be better than most pundits had predicted. One has to believe that home ground advantage may be significant to earn them a semi-final place. It must be added that a victory against Costa Rica is hardly worth getting excited about. Captain Michael Ballack's return to duty will bolster them considerably. Miroslav Klose has impressed up front while Torsten Frings and Bastian Schweinsteiger have been solid in the midfield.

Poland, it must be said, were poor against Ecuador. The deciding match to see who will top the table at the end of Round One takes place on Tuesday the twentieth of June when the two unbeaten teams, Germany and Ecuador meet. This could prove to be a lively affair. Already Poland and Costa Rica are effectively out of the tournament. On the same day both the bottom two teams clash for pride and for third and fourth place.

Group B:

A number of people have been suggesting that England have a chance of repeating their 1966 triumph. What I saw of their effort against Paraguay and for most of their match against Trinidad and Tobago suggests that they have their work cut out to do so. Their only hope will be for one of their excellent midfielders or Wayne Rooney when he eventually plays, to score the goals since Peter Crouch, in my humble opinion is not up to that level against the really top teams.

Sweden were one of the big disappointments of the opening round of fixtures. Admittedly Trinidad and Tobago played out of their skins against them. Unfortunately for them, against England the Caribbean outfit could not repeat their heroics of their match against the Swedes and succumbed in the last ten minutes of the match against a far superior England.

England, by virtue of this latest victory are certain of a place in Round Two. Sweden left it late against Paraguay to record their first goal and victory of the tournament. A Freddie Ljungberg strike in injury time has almost certainly secured a passage into the next round although their final match against England is crucial for the Swedes. Whoever were to win this match will top the final log in Group B.

Mathematically it would still be possible for Sweden to miss out on further participation, but then an unlikely massive victory by Trinidad and Tobago over Paraguay and a heavy defeat by England against Sweden would ensure the West Indian team's further participation. The England versus Sweden clash could be the match of the tournament thus far.

Group C:

Argentina impressed me in their opening match against a lively Côte d'Ivoire team. The Ivorians were they to be in another group may have had a better chance of qualifying. Any slip-ups in this group will be fatal. The South Americans, at this stage, may be a better bet than the favourites Brazil to lift the trophy, especially with the much-acclaimed teenager, Lionel Messi's first appearance imminent. In the first match Juan Pablo Sorin, Juan Roman Riquelme, Hernan Crespo and Javier Saviola were the stand-out players.

The Netherlands are one of the best disciplined teams of the thirty two. I have always fancied them to reach the finals, and I genuinely expect them to get there. Their coach Marco Van Basten has the makings of being close to the best of all time. Arjen Robben was one of the stars of the first round of fixtures and if he can maintain that level they could go all the way.

Côte d'Ivoire's last chance to qualify for the final sixteen will be if they defeat The Netherlands in their next match. Didier Drogba holds the key for them here. Serbia and Montenegro would be surprise qualifiers from this group. There is still life left in this, the Group of Death!

Group D:

This group should see both Mexico and Portugal go through. The Mexicans impressed in their victory over Iran while Portugal laboured somewhat against one of their former colonial countries, Angola.

One cannot see the Mexicans losing to Angola and this victory would ensure a passage through to Round Two. The Portuguese would need to show more than they did against a rather physical Angolan team. They do have Luiz Filipe Scolari as their coach which should be worth a few more victories at the tournament. I do not see them as having the class of a number of the other teams.

Group E:

The biggest disappointment of this group had to be the USA, not because of their loss to the Czech Republic, but in the way that they lost. This is also a competitive group, but one would have expected far better from the fifth ranked side in the world.

Admittedly the Czech Republic are ranked second. For me the two stand-out players in this group are the two Czechs, Tomas Rosicky and Jan Koller. What a shrewd buy Rosicky could be for Arsene Wenger and Arsenal. Despite their domestic problems the Italians are looking strong and appear set to join the Czech Republic in the next round. Francesco Totti and Luca Toni could be the players to watch as the tournament proceeds.



Argentina hit its straps and destroyed Serbia and Montenegro 6-0 in the ultimate football lesson

Group F:

The way in which Australia came back to defeat Japan was impressive and a victory against the Croatians would earn them a ticket into the next round. I was not that impressed with the Brazilians. Before we write them off, we need to realise that they are the number one team in the world.

Ronaldo looked a pale shadow of his former self. But while his performance was well below par, it was worth noting that at times it needed three Croatians to mark him which opened up the gaps for the other players.

The deciding game for the Croatians will be their eagerly-awaited clash against the Australians. One would expect the Croatians to beat the Socceroos, but it will be tight. Kaka's strike against Croatia was superb and he could be the player to watch.

Group G:

It was in the final of the 1998 World Cup in Paris that France last scored a goal in the World Cup Tournament. A lack-lustre display against the Swiss in their opening match of this year's World Cup was unacceptable.

I felt that Zinedine Zidane's as well as Patrick Viera's sell-by-dates have passed. Thierry Henry's performance was well below that of his Arsenal ones. It did not look to be a happy team. They should still qualify for the next round, but on current performances will probably make a quick getaway shortly thereafter.

This group is very much up for grabs, that is should anyone really want it. South Korea's excellent showing at the 2002 World Cup could have a satisfactory sequel this time around and their victory over Togo sees them, at this early stage, drawn in pole position. It is left to three of France, Switzerland and South Korea to fight it out for the top two positions. I give both France, that is if they can find the best combinations, and South Korea the edge to do so.

Group H:

Spain has, over the past few World Cups, been extremely slow starters. This time around they have sounded a serious warning that they could be the surprise package and make a semi final place, at least. Their demolition of Ukraine was impressive. Their team is one of exciting talent and the team I backed at the 1998 World Cup could eventually crack it. Tunisia and Saudi Arabia should fight it out for second place. Their match was one of the least appealing, but ended up being one of the most entertaining of the opening round. Neither would disgrace the second round.

Semi final prediction:

The teams that I fancy to make the semi's are: Brazil; Argentina; Holland and Spain.

David Cohen writes for leading sports news agency Soccerway and various agencies such as AFP.

OVERSEAS TRANSFER NEWS with George Egonidis



With the World Cup well and truly in full swing, transfer rumours are thin on the ground this week, but two players who have already made an impression at the tournament are attracting interest from big European clubs.

Fernando Torres, one of the stand-outs in Spain's 4-0 demolition of Ukraine, has caught the eye of Alex Ferguson, who is willing to meet Atletico Madrid's £25m valuation for the 22-year-old striker. But reports out of Italy suggest that United might to battle for his signature with AC Milan, which sees the man known as "El Nino" as an ideal replacement for Andrei Shevchenko.

German defender Phillip Lahm, whose long-range strike against Costa Rica opened the scoring in Germany, has become another on Jose Mourinho's long list of possible left-backs next season. With interest in Ashley Cole and Roberto Carlos simmering away on the backburner, Chelsea believes that £10m would prise Lahm away from Bayern Munich who, for the record, have insisted that the diminutive international is not going anywhere.

Tottenham is looking to replace one Reid with another. With Leeds keen to take Republic of Ireland midfielder Andy Reid on loan for a year, Spurs have this week had an offer of £2m for Blackburn's Steven Reid rejected by Rovers. They're also on the trail of Aston Villa's Gareth Barry, who would cost in excess of £3m, and Chelsea striker Carlton Cole, who will finally leave Stamford Bridge for good after being starved of opportunities. West Ham and Celtic, however, are looking to hijack the move for Cole – the latter seeing him as the man to fill West Brom-bound John Harrison's boots.

Marseille are reportedly undeterred by the sickening break in Djibril Cisse's leg which will sideline the Frenchman for six months, and will press ahead with a move for the hapless striker. This is music to Rafael Benitez's ears, as he lines up moves for Blackburn's Craig Bellamy for £6m and Seville's £8m-rated right-back Daniel Alves. Transfer-listed Fulham midfielder Steed Malbranque has attracted the interest of at least five English clubs, with Newcastle thought to be amongst the frontrunners to secure his signature this summer. West Ham, though, is keeping close tabs on the auction in case they have to replace Yossi Benayoun, who may return home to Israel. Middlesbrough, Manchester City and Liverpool are the other clubs reportedly willing to meet the £5m price tag on Malbranque's head.

And in brief...

Chelsea's Glen Johnson has snubbed a move to PSV Eindhoven and will move to Portsmouth on loan next season instead.

Benfica's £5m-rated Portugal midfielder Armando Petit says he has been offered a contract by Manchester United.

Wigan plan to offer up to £4m for Newcastle

winger James Milner, who is also wanted by Aston Villa, and are weighing up a move for Dutchman Denny Landzaat.

Shaun Wright-Phillips is another Chelsea player likely to secure a loan move over summer, with Portsmouth, Manchester City and Charlton amongst the interested clubs.

Nicky Butt could be handed a Premiership lifeline by newly promoted Sheffield United.

Christian Vieri will make the switch from Monaco to Sampdoria some time this week.

Manchester City could hand Helder Postiga a second shot at Premiership success as they look to sign the 23-year-old Portugal striker for around £3.5m from Porto.

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FOOTBALL FOCUS...with Louie Acevski



Name: Louie Acevski
Club: Heidelberg United S.C
Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 28
Height: 183 cms
Weight: 85 kgs
Nickname: No Nickname
Previous clubs: Adelaide City, Northern Spirit, Melb Knights, Preston Lions & St Albans S.C

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the VPL? Roddy Vargas cause everything he does he makes it look so simple.

In the world? Thierry Henry for obvious reasons.

Hardest team to keep against? All equally hard!

Occupation? Sales Rep.

Craziest team mate of all time? Nick Sabljak because he thinks his Zvonimir Boban.

Most Influential coach of all time? All current and previous coaches have played some part throughout my soccer career.

Most memorable match as a player? Playing for Melb Knights against Perth Glory in front of 33,000 spectators.

As a fan? Australia VS Japan 2006 World Cup

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran? At the Game!

And when Australia qualified for the World Cup against Uruguay? At home watching it with the family.

Predict the following results:

Australia vs Brazil – Would have already been played.
 Australia vs Croatia – 1:1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup? Argentina

Representative honours? Victorian State Seniors Team 2005 China Tour.

Most important save you've made? Penalty save against South Melb last season 2005 to enable us to qualify for the Grand Final.

Have you ever scored a goal? Not at senior level, but that will have to change before this season ends.

Worst injury: Broken Wrist.

Funniest moment in football? Eric Vassiliadis tripping 3 times over the ball in the space of 5 seconds with absolutely nobody near him in this year's game against Bulleen at Olympic Village and then jumping up and yelling out "Brilliant Eckers"!

Record number of juggles in single attempt? If I could juggle the ball I would of become a outfield player.

Steak, chicken parma or seafood? Chicken Parma

Chips, veggies or salad? Chips

Pizza or souvlaki? Pizza

Favourite drink, non alcoholic and alcoholic? Chordial & Beer.

Favourite nightspot? At home with the family, there is always something happening there!

Favourite holiday destination? Anywhere, as long as I get to get away from everyday life.

Kitchen whiz or home handyman? A bit of both.

What's in the CD player right now? Nothing, not a big fan of music. Stick to SEN 1116 AM.

Dream date? Definitely my beautiful wife and also my gorgeous daughter Isabella. My number 1 girls!

First team-mate you'd invite to a party, and why? Definitely Eric Vassiliadis because he would be the life of the party.

On the end of season trip, the last player to shout drinks will be... Jimmy Roumbos because he would get drunk and have to go to bed before the night begins!

Match day superstitions or rituals? No superstitions or rituals but I make sure I get an afternoon 'siesta'.

Typical matchday meal? Would have to be a couple of sandwiches.

Favorite sporting team when growing up? Everton F.C.

What are your strengths? Shot stopping, communicating on the park and the fact that I hate losing.

What are your weaknesses? Too many to mention.

Ten pin bowling or skydiving? Ten pin bowling.

Toughest opponent? Every player that tries to score past me.

Select a player that you play most like? Difficult to answer who I play like but I can say that I would like to share Oliver Kahn's style and aggression.

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game? Any team that is rich in the game.

What is the last soccer shirt you bought? I have never bought a soccer shirt to this day.

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself? Too many to specify.

Childhood soccer idol? Diego Maradona – the best player ever to play the world game.

Favorite former Socceroo? Goran Lozanovski – best right peg I have come across.

Favourite Current Socceroo? Tim Cahill – runs, tackles, headers and most importantly score goals!

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from? Rocky



Do you watch Footballers Wives? Yes

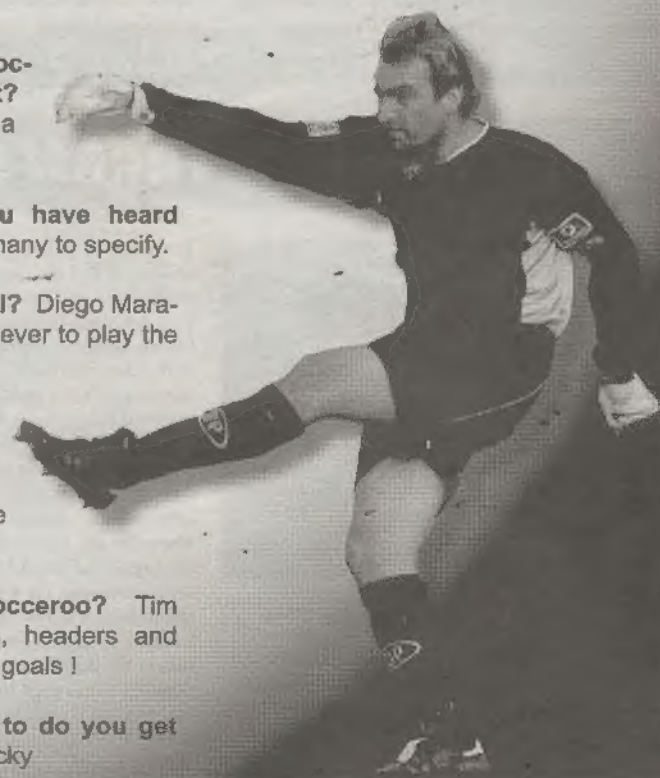
Best away ground you like to visit? B.T Connor Reserve.

If I didn't play football I'd play... cricket. A game where you can eat and drink whatever you like and still be able to be a champion definitely interests me.

What fictional character would you most like to be; why? Dino the Dinosaur cause my daughter absolutely adores him.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie? Brad Pitt because he looks a bit like me. hahaha

Any other bits of Lou Acevski trivia you want us to reveal? That's all for now.



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